

October 30, 2024

Dear DCAT Members and Member Companies,

It is deeply humbling to serve as the newly elected President of the Drug, Chemical & Associated Technologies (DCAT) for the 2025 term. Representing each of you in this historic capacity, one that has brought together the pharmaceutical industry for over 130 years, is an honor and is truthfully a “pinch me” experience.

Those who know me best will attest to my highly open and social spirit, and solid networking skills. The truth is there are a great number of DCAT Members that I do not know (yet). Some of you are asking, “Who is this person, and how did she get here?” Reflectively, I am certain that a special invitation to attend a posh luncheon at an exclusive club, capped off with a bourbon and cigar, at a time when men in top hats and walking sticks monitored their time with a pocket watch, is an unlikely introduction to DCAT for most of us today. In 1891, these barons of industry had the collective vision to explore science, technology, manufacturing, resources, labor relations, investment, the politics of the day and assuredly - healthcare – and held fantastic hope for the future – no doubt alongside concerns as to how to address the many challenges they faced. They were true pioneers – and we are their beneficiaries. And the parallels to our past remain. Much like many of you, I was drawn into the DCAT world in support of my management team preparing for DCAT Week – and from that point forward I was hooked – personally attending events, networking to grow our organization and quickly engaging in committee work that has evolved over the past 15 years to this leadership position of today.

My heartfelt joy, simply stated, emanates from all the extraordinary individuals and companies - that make up the DCAT organization. The creativity, passion and dedication that drive our industry are exponentially magnified as we continue to find results-focused opportunities to collaborate, share best practices, and define an industry driven forward by so many artful, innovative, and inspiring individuals. I believe Charles Pfizer and George Merck would be happy with how things have evolved over the years here at DCAT - and that their legacy of the New York Board of Trade lives on in their spirit and yours! For those who have come before me, while I may not be able to fill your shoes completely, I will be walking in them, blisters aside, to take on all I can in gratitude and commitment.

The DCAT of 2025 will continue to build on this outstanding legacy – and we will seek to expand the opportunities to engage in a truly global network that asks you to throw your top hat into the ring – as active members and engaged volunteers. Unique to the DCAT spirit is the ability, whether working for a major pharmaceutical company, a critical component designer, excipient, or drug substance supplier, a CMO, or a start-up biotech with a handful of employees – to readily engage

and find your next amazing connection. I can guarantee that DCAT has each of you in mind as we make decisions on programming and events. My role as President is to ensure the opportunities for meaningful connections increase, the experiences exceed your expectations, and the quality of content presented is first in class, trend setting and at the forefront of great advancements. My desire is that you continue to invest in the future of this industry and frankly, the health of our world – through your time, talent, knowledge, and dedication – partnered with an organization where you as an individual are critical to our ongoing success. We know the world is counting on us!

The magic of DCAT is the organic flow of ideas, openness to explore the new and unknown, highlight the successes within our industry – and make it easy to start that first conversation or renew a 30-year relationship! In the spirit of simplicity, I am eager to hear your thoughts and concerns, praise for what we are doing well and as well as what “we should do more of” as we embark on this continued journey – together. You will not get an admin or a canned answer – please reach out to me and together we will strive for excellence and integrity in all that we represent. The diversity of our member companies is noteworthy, and it is the way we conduct ourselves that is the difference between mediocre, great, and premier! I will continue my dedication as an enthusiastic leader focused on ensuring that DCAT remains the pre-eminent industry organization, working with you in collaboration – and with a commitment to keeping the future of healthcare at the forefront – while honoring the past.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity and the honor to serve!

Donna J. Gruol
DCAT President
President, Lone Fox Endeavors, LLC