



## Fighting Aids with Nutrition (FAWN)

Fighting AIDS with Nutrition (FAWN) is a WSU student organization focused on providing fortified liquid nutrition to support those living with HIV/AIDS and other catastrophic illnesses around the world. FAWN is able to participate in its global mission by partnering with World Medical Relief (WMR) right here in Michigan. Along with its global initiatives, the organization partners with its FAWN Parent Chapter aiming to support and educate the community about healthy and safe nutrition goals in a variety of local settings.

During this past year, FAWN was able to enhance its engagement both on and off campus. In the summer of 2018, FAWN officially joined the Pharmacy Alliance for Community Engagement (PACE) within the school of pharmacy in order to facilitate increased community engagement and a larger network of support for the organization. Members were able to successfully engage in the community and participate in health fairs providing vaccinations and vaccine education at St. John's Armenian Church Health Fair. Additionally, FAWN participated in a community outreach event at Vista Maria, providing interactive education regarding nutrition, vitamins, and minerals to local and vulnerable young women who may not have access to this information otherwise.

In the fall of 2018, FAWN hosted its annual education seminar entitled "The Value and Need for Nutrition When Fighting HIV/AIDS," presented by Dr. Frankie Julian and his father, the founder of FAWN, Pastor Frank Julian. This was a well-attended event and allowed FAWN to educate pharmacy students regarding the importance of nutrition in addition to pharmacotherapy for people living with HIV/AIDS. This seminar was especially exciting because members played a sneak-peak trailer of the new feature length film entitled "Forbidden", starring FAWN's own Pastor Frank Julian. This film beautifully portrays both the mission of FAWN and the journey of those who brought the organization to life in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In early 2019, FAWN took part in World AIDS Day awareness and hosted its first annual "Red Pin" sale with 100% of profits donated to those affected by HIV/AIDS. This was a successful endeavor allowing the organization to enhance its reach and mission within the school of pharmacy. In mid-February, FAWN plans to host its first ever annual "Winter Soup Sale" with the goal of selling nutritious soup to raise funds for liquid nutrition. Members hope for this to be their largest fundraising event of the year and they need your help to do it! Additionally, on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon-4pm, FAWN will have a booth at the MPA conference in Detroit, to discuss the mission of FAWN and WMR with practicing pharmacists in Michigan.

FAWN is a small organization with a desire to grow and positively impact those affected by HIV/AIDS along the way. To support FAWN, please consider participating in its events as well as follow, like, and share its news on Facebook.



*FAWN WSU Student Chapter E-board Members and FAWN Parent chapter Board of Trustees Members at the annual HIV/AIDS Student education seminar and sneak preview of "Forbidden" (Oct 2018 at EACPHS)*

*Back row (left to right): Nour Baalbaki (P3), Rana Aoun (P3), Audrey Khoury (P3), Dr. Frank Julian Jr. PharmD, Pastor Frank Julian*

*Front row (left to right): Leah Vader (P2), Jessica Dare-Shih (P2), Keerat Bal (P2)*

# American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)

APhA-ASP/sMPA started the semester with the Annual Fall Membership party on the first day of classes. The organization later hosted a Glucometer Training Session set up by Operation Diabetes and the Annual Immunization Training, set up by Operation Immunization through APhA to certify student pharmacists.

On Main Campus, APhA recruited some members to paint the large rock between State Hall and the David Adamany Undergraduate Library in celebration of American Pharmacists Month. Also in honor of the month, the organization recognized a different student pharmacist each day on its social media page, with a unique design made by its current Communications Vice President.

APhA also hosted its Annual LAPP/TAPP/CAPP Seminar to give current students insight into the different APPE rotations Wayne State has to offer. In November, members hosted an Electives Panel event. This event is similar to LAPP/TAPP/CAPP, but the larger panel consists of students who either took an elective, are currently enrolled in an elective, or following one of the other elective tracks Wayne State allows their PharmD students to pursue (Certificate in Business or Public Health and Research Scholars).

The organization attended the Midyear Regional Meeting in Madison, WI. The WSU chapter of APhA-ASP is located in Region 4, which encompasses several states in the Midwest. The event allowed the APhA members to network and learn about professionalism and leadership with other student pharmacists across the region. The organization also hosted its local National Patient Counseling Competition, in which student pharmacists at the WSU chapter competed to represent Wayne State University in the official competition at the national APhA Annual Meeting, this year in Seattle, WA. Prizes were awarded from the national chapter to the top 10 contestants, and the winner is getting their hotel, flight, and registration covered by the local chapter to attend the meeting.

Ongoing since last semester are also the campus-wide flu clinics, ran by Operation Immunization in collaboration with Campus Health Center and Wellness Warriors, with training and recruitment courtesy of Operation Heart.



Student pharmacists from APhA, in collaboration with SPDC and LKS at the Midwest Buddhist Meditation Center health fair. Students provided clinical services that included immunizations, blood glucose checks, and blood pressure readings. Students were also able to educate those in attendance on safe medication use and disposal.



APhA members and pharmacy students at the annual "Paint the Rock" (Fall 2018, WSU main campus)

# Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS)



Left to Right: Leanne Olney (P2), Aisha Rahman (P4), Najifa Choudhury (P4), Natalie Brikho (P2), Dr. Mary Beth O'Connell, Sara Denton (P3)

It has been a busy year for the Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) Omicron Chapter, and it's shaping up to be one of their best years yet! Members kicked off the year by attending the LKS National Convention in Buffalo, NY where they had the opportunity to present their poster showcasing Melanoma Cancer. While there, they accepted the Northern Lakes Region Collegiate Chapter of the Year award and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Chrysanthemum Award for Outstanding Achievement in member recruitment. LKS' wonderful faculty advisor, Dr. Mary Beth O'Connell, received the award for Best Advisor of the year among 31 Chapters nationally. A well-deserved achievement!

As the school year began, recruitment was in full gear. After a successful recruitment season, the Chapter was thrilled to have welcomed 12 dedicated women into its sisterhood.

The first fundraising event "The Double Good Popcorn" was also a huge success. Members look forward to continuing their fundraising success with online Yankee Candle, Little Caesars Pizza Kits sales and their famous biannual Taco Bar.

Another goal at the Omicron chapter is to continue to host professionalism events each month. These seminars are intended to help members realize and work toward their goals. This semester included a new topic that many women can relate to, Imposter Syndrome. Individuals with imposter syndrome live with a constant fear of being exposed as a fraud and not feeling worthy of their accomplishments. This sensitive topic was brought to light by EACPHS very own Dr. Susan Davis. LKS is also planning on hosting seminars on nuclear and compounding pharmacy. The Chapter will continue to lead the pharmacy school in volunteering with a local metro-Detroit organization, Vista Maria, by holding an informational session for all student leaders within our college this semester. Vista Maria has been LKS's philanthropy organization for several years. Vista Maria is a group home for young girls and older women. During the Fall, LKS implemented a new topic presentation at Vista Maria on the importance of being vaccinated. Members look forward to continuing this year's success and building lifelong relationships with their new sisters!



Core Values Poster Presentation.

left to right: Natalie Brikho (P2), Aisha Rahman (P4), Najifa Choudhury (P4), Sara Denton (P3), Leanne Olney (P2)

# Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP)

Last semester Wayne State University Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (WSU-SSHP) hosted many seminars and events, including Discovering the DMC and the Residency Information Seminar. Discovering the DMC is an annual event in which clinical pharmacists from DMC Harper University Hospital discuss what clinical pharmacy is, how they got to where they are now, and what students can do to prepare for a career in clinical pharmacy. After the presentation, students got a tour of the DMC. The organization also hosted its annual Residency Information Seminar where it had three residency directors from Beaumont-Troy, DMC, and St. John Hospital, come in and discuss their programs and what they look for in a resident.

Members also participated in the college-wide Apple Days event, in which they discussed respiratory health with high school students and the effects of smoking on the lungs.

In addition, SSHP collaborated with the WSU-Medical School to administer and read TB tests. The organization offered a TB training session in Fall and several opportunities for community service to put those newly learned skills to use.

This semester, SSHP is planning its annual Internship Panel later this month, on February 22nd. The panel will include current pharmacy interns who will discuss internship opportunities at different hospitals and their experiences.

Also, the organization will continue the Pharmacist Shadowing Program where members are able to shadow a clinical pharmacist and it will be hosting its 3rd annual Specialty Session on March 28th, where students will have a small group discussion with a specialty pharmacist and have the opportunity to learn more about their specialty. And lastly, elections will be held in April.



SSHP Residency Information Seminar  
Left to right: Alison Doane, Judy El-Nachef, Natalie Brikho, Dr. Guiliano, Dr. Raub, Dr. Priziola, Dena Berri, Nada Emara, Rylie Martin

## World Health Student Organization (WHSO)

This year WHSO has been active with relief trips, local events, and fundraisers. WHSO has partnered with the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy for a Jamaica dental mission trip. The trip is in July and will help the people of Montego Bay. WHSO has set up monthly volunteering at the World Medical Relief to help package medications. They will also be visiting Vista Maria this semester to provide medical education. The annual Grilled Cheese Fundraiser will be held this March and a Donuts and Coffee fundraiser was held during fall semester and will be held again this winter. All fundraiser proceeds are donated to local causes. WHSO will also hold an OTC drive week this semester where all medication will be donated to the refugees in Greece.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Arun Iyer, PhD



## How did your interest in research and your desire to work in this field begin?

From the very beginning, I had an interest in science and engineering as a field and was fortunate enough to have good teachers and mentors who encouraged and guided me while I was a student. That was my driving force in initial stages. I completed a Master's degree in Polymer Science and was involved on a project on using biomedical polymers for drug delivery and the use of nanomaterials for application in biology and medicine. I feel privileged and honored to have completed my PhD under the guidance of Dr. Hiroshi Maeda, the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Nominee and a world-renowned Scientist. I really enjoy and continue to work in this field. I encourage all students with a research interest to consider becoming involved in a lab on campus and taking advantage of the research scholars program. I am a mentor in that program and have successfully trained PharmD students. I encourage all students, including students from the college of pharmacy to consider research and getting information from your faculty advisors. In my opinion, pharmacists collaborating with researchers is extremely rewarding and exciting because it brings a unique perspective and facilitates bench research translating into patient care.

## How long have you been a faculty at Wayne State and can you offer us a summary of your research?

In winter 2014, I started my position as tenure track Assistant Professor at Wayne State in EACPHS and I have been here for close to 4.5 years. My area of research is multidisciplinary in nature, with a broad focus on engineering use-inspired biomaterials and nanomaterials for diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer, infection, and inflammation.

## What is most challenging and most rewarding in your current research field?

In my field, the most challenging endeavors are identifying treatments for multi-drug resistant cancers as well as developing techniques to overcome bacterial resistance in diseases such as MRSA. These are both highly challenging disease states to treat and understand. The research community as a group have made large strides towards identifying and treating these diseases with ground-breaking discoveries and innovations. It is most rewarding to see the outcome of nanomedical research and the translation of some of the nanomedicines from the bench to the bedside. I feel privileged and honored to have this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people affected by these disease states.

## Does your research have any collaboration efforts, and in what areas do you collaborate?

Our lab majorly works on translational research and we thus collaborate a lot on cancer research and other projects. Cancer is a complex problem which needs multidisciplinary teams and experts working together to tackle it. I am also an affiliate scientific member of the molecular imaging program at Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI) that helps me network and interact with a large group of members with diverse expertise. I have strong collaborations with scientists and clinicians at KCI. In this regard, the collaborations with clinicians are of paramount importance because they give us ideas and insight about challenges they face with patients, which we would not otherwise be privy to. It thus helps us fine tune our nano-formulations and therapeutics to better serve those affected by the disease. We are also collaborating with Dr. Mike Rybak here at the college in an effort to use nanoparticle technologies to penetrate the biofilm of resistant bacteria such as MRSA to better treat infections that currently have very few or no alternatives. We are also interested in the utility of nanoparticles for early detection and imaging of disease conditions. In this regard we collaborate with researchers from the Wayne State Biomedical Engineering department to detect and treat ovarian cancers using our nanoprobe and nanoparticles.

## How do you see your research and teaching progressing over the years to come?

In terms of career development, teaching, research and service are equally important for achieving success. A major role as a Principal Investigator (PI) is to be competitive in attaining and maintaining extramural grant funding. A laboratory's success is in attracting top talent and to expand the lab and intaking high quality graduate students. All these goals can be accomplished by maintaining a good publication record and good levels of funding. We currently have been successful in attaining funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the US Department of Defense (DoD) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) and we hope to continue to succeed in attaining long term funding to allow us to expand our scope and intake more students. In terms of personnel training, I have mentored 3 post-docs in my group, two of whom have been successful in attaining faculty positions. I currently train 1 PharmD Research Scholar, 5 summer research scholars, and 3 PhD students in my lab. Additionally, 6 MS and 1 PhD students have already successfully completed their degrees in my lab here at Wayne State and have joined other labs or Industry. In terms of teaching, I currently serve as the course coordinator and instructor in the Pharmaceutics course in the PharmD and MS program and I have a strong interest in teaching. I hope to continue teaching within the PharmD and MS program in the years to come.