



June 2020

THE STUDENT PHARMACIST



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KAPPA PSI

Kappa Psi has had an exceptional year full of new ventures. At the beginning of the school year, our chapter hosted the regional conference. The regional conference consisted of 15 pharmacy schools, with an attendance of almost 200 students and pharmacists. During this conference, students participated in networking and philanthropy, all while exploring our beautiful city of Detroit.

The brothers also took part in the Adopt-a-Family event at the college this year and through tremendous effort, the chapter was able to donate \$1,000 worth of gifts to the family in need. We also held our annual Winter Retreat where brothers shared stories and gifts. After this event we shared the holiday spirit by volunteering at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul to help with the Homeless Memorial Service Coat Drive. Other philanthropy events we participated in this year include helping registration for the Night Nation Run event, and packaging for both the Forgotten Harvest organization and the World Medical Relief.

For the first time, the chapter took part in

the UpToUs competition. During this competition, brothers took part in spreading awareness of the national debt with an emphasis on health care spending. Through these efforts, three brothers earned the opportunity to take business courses at Harvard Business school online this summer. Later in the month of June, the results of the competition will be released, bringing both the chapter and the college national recognition.

Near the end of the year, we had a shift to focus our efforts on mental health awareness. Unfortunately, we were unable to have our Push-Up Against Mental Health event, but we will reintroduce it back to the college when school opens back up! Lastly, we are saddened to mention that earlier in the year, the Late Father Frank Facione passed away. Facione was a former professor at EACPHS and highly regarded member of the chapter.

**-Husein Safaoui, P3
Kappa Psi President**

KΨ



(L-R): David Bermudez, Noah Trotter, Lucas Crum, Jacob Dudash, Fadi Manuel, Hussein Safaoui, Zack Mueller, Ryan Caputo, Steven Conway, Daniel Frederick, Pierce Shaw

RHO CHI

Since the Rho Chi Alpha Chi inception at Wayne State in 1953, our chapter has continued to preserve the society's rich history of tradition by encouraging and recognizing intellectual scholarship and providing service to the local community and our fellow student body. Each year, the Alpha Chi chapter conducts numerous events that promote academic and professional success. Members of the chapter provide tutoring for the first-year courses of the pharmacy program. In addition, Rho Chi organizes our annual mentoring program, which pairs incoming P1 students to an experienced P3 student who can offer guidance and encouragement. Additionally, the chapter collaborated with the Pharmacy Practice faculty to offer

simulated interviews to P3 students to help them prepare for future professional interviews. We were blessed to have support from many of the amazing pharmacy faculty, and we would like to thank all of those who donated their valuable time for making this event possible!

Our chapter also worked to support the underserved community of Detroit. On the second Tuesday of each month, various Rho Chi members and our faculty advisor (Dr. Lynette Moser) staffed the St. Frances Cabrini Clinic. At the clinic, our members worked in collaboration with other dedicated healthcare professionals to provide medical care to the underserved patient population. Our members helped fill prescriptions, as well as provide

patients with medication and disease state education and counseling.

Although coronavirus interfered with several of our chapter's annual events, the Rho Chi Alpha Chi chapter continues to flourish. On March 30, 2020, nineteen new student-members and two new faculty-members were initiated into the chapter via the Big Blue Button Conference feature in Canvas. Our chapter organized numerous successful events this year and we are very excited to see our chapter continue to evolve in the future.

**-Lindsay Dhargali, P4
Rho Chi President (2019-2020)**



2019-2020 P3 active members (left to right): Nadeen Berry, Sahar Ajrouche (Secretary), Nadine Chami, Vanessa Hardrick, Mahdi Elahi, Abdullah T Mattit, Hannah Ferrari, Shivan Patel, Bianca Aprilliano (Vice President), Steven Kulesza, Nour Mohamad Khanfer, Annelise Jongekrijg, Christopher Miller, Waleed Makkawi, Lauren Maria Mansour, Leah (Vader) Samman, Joshua Clark Liske, Tara Orzechowski (Treasurer), David Gutenschwager, Nkeiruka Edith Iwu (Historian), Lindsay Marie Darghali (President), Katherine Dada, Khaled Almawri

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) is a national organization dedicated to using evidence-based medicine and economics to help create and optimize medication benefits and their impacts at a population health level.

This year, our college was able to welcome the student chapter of this organization, and AMCP has had several events this past year. In the fall semester, we invited a speaker to talk to students about post-graduate opportunities, such as fellowships in the pharmaceutical industry and managed care residencies. Students were able to gather more information about the variety of career paths they can pursue and what jobs they can ultimately lead to. In the winter, we had a residency director from a local managed care plan come and speak to us about the residency program, summer internship positions that her organization has, and what students can do to get prepared for the application process. Many students used this as a networking event and due to the popularity of the event, we

were able to send several students to shadow pharmacists to get a better understanding of a typical day in the life of a managed care pharmacist.

For the upcoming school year, AMCP has exciting plans meant to build connections between our students and different companies in the area. We are looking to hold a panel event with several former students who are now working in managed care in the area to help students

better grasp how to reach their career goals. We also want to hold an internship seminar where we can help students prepare their applications for the rigorous application cycle and practice their interviewing skills to help them land their desired internship.

**-Shivan Patel, P4
AMCP President (2019-2020)**



AMCP Winter Seminar: Kim Moon, manager and residency director at Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Part D, speaks to students about her role as a pharmacist, internship opportunities, and career paths in this sector.



Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy



Fadi Manuel, P3
AMCP President; Kappa Psi

Describe your favorite memory of pharmacy school so far.

Kappa Psi's Donut Sale held before our ID exam, the week before spring break; It was a unique day - students were stressing about the exam and the COVID stories were ramping up. Yet, there were still smiles all around and we tried to ease some of the stress. Looking back, it makes me

miss my classmates, since I haven't seen them all in person in a while.

What networking connections have you made through AMCP?

I attended an AMCP Midwest networking event in downtown Detroit, and I was introduced to several managed care pharmacists. One of them was Dr. Stacey Repotski, who served as the Clinical Pharmacist Manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield and is currently the Medical Managed Care Director at Sanofi Genzyme. I've also had the pleasure of having lunch with Dr. Mark Isopi, a Senior Regional Medical Liaison at Amgen, who explained his role at the company.

What are your plans after you graduate?

I hope to use the remainder of school

to expand on my knowledge of managed care pharmacy. In 5-10 years after graduating, I hope to own/manage several pharmacies or operate a business that specializes in enhancing patient knowledge by providing health care consulting to improve patient outcomes.

What makes someone a good fit for AMCP?

Be different and willing to take on unique, unknown opportunities. I believe in the saying by Inky Johnson: "As a courtesy to the generation coming behind you, leave the things that you are involved in better than you found it." A student who has the drive to improve the situation that he/she is in fits on any team and will be a great leader in their community.

DEW CLINIC

The Diabetes Education Wellness (DEW) Clinic is a student-run, non-profit organization that provides the greater Detroit area with no-cost, individualized diabetes and wellness education through an interprofessional team approach. The goal is to provide support and assist people in the community in managing and preventing potential complications of diabetes by offering personalized, holistic treatment plans. The interdisciplinary clinic team includes volunteer students and faculty from pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, medicine, and dietetics. The role of the pharmacy team is to educate patients about their medications and diabetes self-monitoring. The clinic is open every first Monday of the month and also provides a great opportunity for student volunteers to learn about services offered by different disciplines.

One of the most exciting accomplishments that we had in the past year was the “DEW What You SAY 5k Run” which occurred in October 2019. Thanks to all of the volunteers and participants, we were able to raise over \$4,000 this past year. This event helped fund the DEW Clinic to continue providing education and supplies to underserved patients, while also helping to fund the SAY Detroit PT clinic, which provides free physical therapy services to uninsured and underinsured patients. The DEW Clinic plans to continue “The DEW What You SAY 5k Run” as a tradition in the future, in addition to being able to give back to the Detroit community.



Students from various practices volunteering at DEW Clinic this past fall semester.



Farzaneh Azizi, P3

DEW Student Pharmacist Coordinator;
SPDC/SPIN, SCCP, APhA



Faezeh Azizi, P3

DEW Student Pharmacist Coordinator;
SPIN Director (SPDC), SCCP, PLS, APhA

Why did you choose to join DEW Clinic?

We have always been passionate about helping others and giving back to the community. Through our pharmacy education, we have seen many opportunities to help improve patient care, such as working

with the DEW Clinic. Not only are we able to help educate patients about their diabetes medications, but we also learn by talking to patients about the importance of tailoring the care to each individual's values and lifestyle. In addition, it is a great opportunity to learn about other professions and create a network beyond the profession of pharmacy. As co-coordinators, we recruit volunteers and attend clinic meetings, but during the clinic, we are volunteers, which is what we enjoy about the position.

Describe your favorite memory of pharmacy school so far.

Farzaneh: The 2018 APhA Mid-Year Regional Meeting! I was excited to network with other student pharmacists from different schools in our region, and attend workshops.

Faezeh: Any chance I was able to

help patients at clinics or family/friends with their pharmacy-related questions are my favorite memories. It just reminds me of how far I have come, how much I have gained knowledge, and how much there is still left to explore.

What are your plans after you graduate?

Call it a twin thing or not, but we are both mainly interested in becoming ambulatory care pharmacists, but we also like to be involved in academia! It would be so rewarding for us to be able to give back to the community through the practice of pharmacy as well as teaching the future student pharmacists.

Student Pharmacists Diversity Council



A



B

A: Guest speaker Jay Johnson speaking to current pharmacy students about cultural competency, awareness, and adaptability last fall 2019.

B: Students volunteering at the MBMC Thai Temple in September 2019 including (L-R) Sarah Sanna, Annie Jongekrijg, Basma Alyashae, Ashley LaDuke, and Rand Azzo.

The Student Pharmacists Diversity Council (SPDC) is an organization that promotes the value of diversity in the healthcare field - be it within interprofessional relationships, or through interactions with patients. It is our goal to help develop student pharmacists into culturally competent professionals. This past year, we worked towards this goal from three directions – the Student Pharmacists Inclusion Network (SPIN), seminars for pharmacy students, and community outreach events.

SPIN – In November, SPIN was honored to have Dr. Insaf Mohammad hold a workshop about what mentorship means and how our mentees and mentors should grow in this process and learn from each other. In February, SPIN was fortunate to have Dr. Joseph Fava talk about potential opportunities in the field of pharmacy and answer mentees' specific questions. We were also informed that two of our mentees from 2019-2020 have been accepted into the pharmacy program!



Seminars – Our first guest speaker was Jay Johnson, who held his Cultural Competency Seminar discussing cultural adaptability and how to use these techniques in a pharmacy setting. In November, guest speaker Caleb Cogswell gave a presentation discussing cultural competence in transgender care, building upon material from previous classes. In March, SPDC hosted Dr. Heather Dillaway, who gave her perspective on intersectionality and its impact on healthcare and shared her research on the topic.

Outreach – In September, SPDC returned to the Health Fair at Midwest Buddhist Meditation Center (MBMC) Thai Temple where we performed free blood glucose testing, blood pressure measuring, OTC and antibiotic medication consultations, and flu vaccines to patients. In November, we participated in Community Apple Days, where we presented "The Relevance of Culture & Identity in Healthcare" to high school students as part of the Wayne State C2 Pipeline program.

I am so proud to be part of SPDC and to help work towards achieving our mission.

– Ryan Mac, P3
SPDC President



A: Gaurangi Trivedi measuring blood pressure during the Jamaica Dental Mission. **B:** WHSO students volunteering at the World Medical Relief to sort medical supplies.



World Health Student Organization

Our focus this year was to promote diversity and collaboration within the program. During the past school year, WHSO expanded its E-Board with new positions such as Professional Development Chair and Multicultural Chair. At our general meetings, each E-Board member would bring an ethnic dish representing different cultures for the members to enjoy. WHSO had volunteering events at the World Medical Relief, where students sorted medical supplies that went to various countries around the world. This year, we also created a new logo for our organization and have plans to make new pins and apparel to raise money for communities locally and globally. Our biggest fundraiser both semesters has been our Grilled Cheese Fundraiser: we were able to raise money to provide medications and toys to local communities in Jamaica. Through our fundraisers and dues, we were also able to raise ~\$1000 for the Jamaica Dental Mission (JDM).

Last July, WHSO partner JDM and one of our students, Gaurangi Trivedi, participated in the medical relief trip. A group of 77 volunteers treated 1,018 patients over 4 clinic days in western Jamaica. The pharmacists adopted a collaborative practice with the clinic dentists to determine dosing for patients that were prescribed antibiotics and/or analgesics. The pharmacy team also provided counseling to patients on their respective medications, as well as any necessary post-operation instructions. WHSO has established a partnership with the JDM, thereby fostering collaborations and participation of more students in the future.

WHSO provides opportunities for students to come together, participate, and collaborate. Our goal is to be able to provide experiences for students locally and internationally.

**-Gaurangi Trivedi, P4
WHSO President (2019-2020)**

Basma Alyashae, P3

WHSO President;

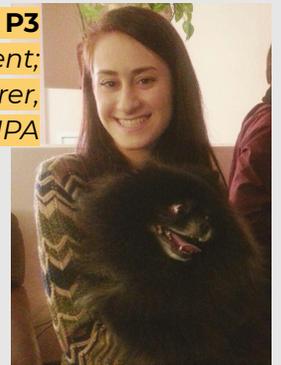
Class of 2022 Treasurer,

APhA, MPA

Why did you choose to join WHSO?

I chose to join WHSO because my values aligned with those of the organization. WHSO provides help to those less

fortunate, locally and globally. WHSO also holds many volunteer opportunities including collaborating with Freedom House, Missions of Mercy, World Medical Relief Center, and by providing mission trips to Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. WHSO also holds bake sales, grilled cheese fundraisers, and general meetings to raise money to these organizations that we collaborate with, locally and internationally.



What plans do you have after you graduate?

After graduation, I plan on working at a community pharmacy. Having worked in a community pharmacy previously, I appreciate the interactions I have with patients and talking to them about their medications and any concerns they have. Community pharmacies are easily accessible to patients and this provides a good opportunity to educate patients on their therapy and medication conditions.

What makes a student a good fit for WHSO?

I believe someone who is a good team player, has good communication skills, and has interests in helping others in our community and globally would make a perfect fit for WHSO. This organization is all about people coming together to collaborate ideas and host events to raise money for local and global communities.



Phi Lambda Sigma

This year, Phi Lambda Sigma awarded Member of the Year to Annie Jongerkrijg. In addition to this award, Archana Sondor organized a leadership seminar hosted by Dr. Tsilimingras about what it truly means to be a leader in the field of pharmacy, exemplifying how we as students are able to shape ourselves into becoming great leaders. Once Phi Lambda Sigma is able to meet in person, we plan to initiate twenty-two new members and four honorary members.



Some PLS members during the annual May retreat. (Top L-R): Hassan Khatib, Derek Volgyi, Jessica Andrews, Leanne Olney, Zack Mueller, Steven Conway, Davey Gutenschwager; (Bottom L-R): Melanda Nazee, Kat Vi Choung, Lauren Krumm, Dena Berry, Archana Sondor, Stephanie Gryebet, Ashley Blanchette



(L-R): Melanda Nazee, Derek Volgyi, Jessica Andrews, Dena Berry

The events to look forward to during the upcoming fall semester include both an Interview Seminar and CV/Letter of Intent Seminar. We will also be hosting our White Coat/Clip Board and Mac and Cheese Bar fundraisers. We look forward to seeing everyone this fall and providing these events to our fellow pharmacy students. We are looking forward to another successful year for all of us!

**-Melanda Nazee, P3
PLS President**



Archana Sondor, P3

**PLS Outreach Committee Chair,
Co-Chair APhA Operation Heart,
SPDC Cultural Director, SCCP**

Why did you choose to be a part of Phi Lambda Sigma?

I chose to apply for Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) because of its dedication to fostering leadership in the practice of pharmacy. I had been involved in many leadership roles coming into pharmacy school and this organization gave me the opportunity to build on those skills in order to become a more effective leader within the pharmacy setting.

What has been your favorite activity/event held by Phi Lambda Sigma?

PLS is known for its CV Seminar and Mac and Cheese Fundraiser. The CV Seminar provides students with professional development by giving them the opportunity to have their CVs critiqued. This is one of my favorite events because building a strong CV can be a daunting task and having a professional provide feedback can give you a sense of direction. The Mac and Cheese Fundraiser is more of a fun event in which students can build their own mac and cheese bowls during org hour. This year it was so successful that we held it both semesters. The fundraiser is one of my favorite events we hold because it allows us to interact with the rest of the pharmacy student body over something that is common to everyone: food!

Describe your favorite memory of pharmacy school so far.

My favorite memory of pharmacy school so far was our white coat ceremony. This memory is very important to me because it marked the beginning of my professional career. At times when I find myself questioning if I've learned or gained anything from this journey, I think back to how far I have come since that white coat ceremony and it definitely puts everything into perspective for me.

This past March, Dr. Pitts was the recipient of the [2020 WSU President's Award for Excellence in Teaching](#). In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Pitts also collaborates with university-wide organizations, such as Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability Training (T-RUST) and Healthy Urban Waters (HUW), and he is also one of the driving forces in the Faculty Against Coronavirus Team ([FACT](#)), gathering recommended COVID-19 resources available for students in the weekly EACPHS newsletter.

Associate Professor
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Research Focus: Environmental toxicology and contaminants of emerging concern (CEC)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

DR. DAVID K. PITTS, Ph.D.

Congratulations on earning the 2020 WSU President's Award for Excellence in Teaching! Can you describe what the award means to you?

The President's Award means a great deal to me. It certainly does not represent the end of a journey, but rather a very significant milestone and acknowledgement along the never-ending path towards teaching excellence. I do not have any formal training as a teacher and have not earned any degrees in education. My approach to teaching has been learned while working as a faculty member at WSU since 1990. Any skills that I have acquired as a teacher have evolved over time through missteps, errors, and purposeful insight. I have simplified and distilled the philosophy that guides me down to a series of phrases: caring as the key to student success, value diversity and inclusion, be accessible, be real, be fair, listen and be humble, be a student too, and stimulate – stimulate – stimulate (try something new!). Caring creates an interpersonal connection, and students can find this to be a source of motivation in the educational process. I find teaching and interacting with an audience, large or small, very rewarding and on occasion, my approach seems to work. However, there is always room for improvement and growth, and I look forward to

continuing down the path towards teaching excellence.

To me, the President's Award is a high-level acknowledgment of being mostly able to stay on the right path, and continuing a life-long process of learning and growth as an educator.

What has been the most rewarding aspect in your research/career?

I believe that the most rewarding aspect of my research career comes from the intellectual stimulation that results from broad interdisciplinary collaborations, including faculty, students, postdocs, and staff. My research slowly changed over time from biomedical to include more environmentally oriented studies in the field of environmental toxicology. My research now includes both vertebrate and invertebrate model organisms. I find it very exciting to tackle complex problems that require expertise from many different fields. The exchange of ideas and broader sweep of the literature from pharmacology and toxicology to environmental engineering and ecology provides never-ending intellectual excitement and creativity, allowing me to participate in areas of science that I never anticipated.

You have been a two-time Wayne State alumnus, researcher, professor, and have done plenty of work within multiple colleges within the university. What can you say about Wayne State that makes it a great environment to advance in one's endeavors?

As a major research university, with a very clear urban mission in a diverse city with a rich history, WSU provides an ideal environment for any faculty member who values community – from the College to the campus to the surrounding urban metropolitan area to the global community – there are a multitude of opportunities to engage with others and find purpose in one's career. It is a privilege to be able to interact with such a diverse group of people on campus and find common interests and values. It is in such an environment that I have been able to pursue research and educational goals within WSU groups like [Healthy Urban Waters \(HUW\)](#) and [Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability Training \(T-RUST\)](#), which involve faculty, students, and postdocs from multiple colleges and many different departments on campus. HUW research includes a focus on water infrastructure and safe drinking supply, while T-RUST is a program that allows graduate students from multiple disciplines to collaborate on issues in urban sustainability; the interdisciplinary effort in these programs has been the most exciting part.

As the Director for the PharmD program's Research Scholars track, what advice do you have for students interested in research during their pharmacy school years and/or post-graduation?

As students in the pharmacy program, you are exposed to a daunting amount of information to learn and master to be successful. As part of the frontline of health professionals, the career can be enormously rewarding because of the benefits it brings to others. Successful careers will require continued life-long learning and the ability to be flexible and adapt to a changing health care landscape. There are tremendous pressures to change and improve the health care system in this nation, and it will change. Uncertainties about the future can elicit anxiety and concern about the role pharmacists will play in the health care system. However, change often creates opportunities and pharmacists have unique training and experience that can provide an absolutely essential part of any reconfigured health care system. In order to adapt, you need to be flexible, patient, and confident in your ability to contribute. To be a change-maker and to have an impact on the future of the health care system and the role of pharmacists in it, you need to be willing to take some calculated risks. I see research as one potential way to expand opportunities and contribute to the growth of the

profession and perhaps even redefine the roles that pharmacists play in the health care system. The key is to keep an open mind about potential roles you might play, and participation in the research enterprise can present opportunities that were unanticipated. What other health care professional knows so much about how drugs and chemicals affect biology or living systems?

We are also in a moment of tremendous human-driven change within the U.S. and across the planet that will bring many additional challenges to all of us. The pace of change is so rapid that it is difficult to anticipate opportunities and what the future might look like within the course of a career. Jobs and careers are in flux and society has many needs that will require new knowledge and skill sets to address the many problems that confront us. As we push through this coronavirus pandemic and reach the other side, we will need to re-evaluate our health care system, make it better, and be ready to confront huge anthropogenic problems, such as [climate change](#) and declining biodiversity. These planetary-level changes are affecting human health now and the impact will increase. For example, we are now seeing changes in infectious disease, and food and water insecurity from loss of ecosystem services, that will continue to be very problematic. It is always important to look at a problem such as the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic from multiple disciplinary perspectives. The environmental science side, such as the analysis of [how viral transmission occurs through indoor air, how long the virus survives on surfaces](#), and how this relates to the initial invasion of cells is of particular interest to me. It is an area that I believe requires further research in order to develop both better strategies to avoid infection and better personal protection equipment (PPE) for health care providers and the society-at-large in order to cope with this pandemic and any future outbreaks of infectious disease that targets the respiratory system.

We need research to adapt and stay healthy in this changing world. Acceptance of the challenge this presents can open research opportunities that captures your interest and expands your knowledge and experience. Finding the opportunities will require patience, persistence, and the readiness to apply oneself to a career path that may not have been anticipated. You never know how all of the ingredients of a career will come together at any given moment. Do not stop growing! Stay engaged and keep learning, and you can find yourself in a career path that is exciting, rewarding, and appreciated because you are making a difference!

