

APhA New Practitioner Advisory Committee
APhA New Practitioner Mentor Program



APhA NEW PRACTITIONER MENTOR PROGRAM

The APhA New Practitioner Mentor Program serves a dual purpose. Student pharmacists are provided with insight into the transition from student to pharmacist by learning from experiences shared by new practitioners, and APhA-ASP chapters can take advantage of the additional resources available through their assigned mentor. As mentors, new practitioners are provided with opportunities to collaborate with student pharmacists and to foster relationships with pharmacy faculty to assist in their personal and professional development as pharmacists.

Serving as an APhA New Practitioner Mentor is a rewarding experience and takes very little time. Mentors are provided with a wide array of opportunities based on the needs of each APhA-ASP chapter. APhA New Practitioner Mentors may assist during patient care projects by overseeing students and participating in Operation Immunization, Operation Diabetes, and the Heartburn Awareness Challenge; serving as a judge for the local round of the National Patient Counseling Competition; and presenting at APhA-ASP chapter meetings.

BECOME A MENTOR AND GAIN FROM GIVING

Time and time again, pharmacists serving as APhA New Practitioner Mentors gain much more out of the experience than expected. Here are a few things a mentor can expect to gain from giving back:

- *Remain inspired and involved* – The passion exerted by student pharmacists often goes unmatched by most pharmacists in practice. As a mentor, your exposure to this passion helps rejuvenate your own interests and passions.
- *Variety in your career* – Relationships at a school or college of pharmacy are a great way to establish your own practice site for introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences.
- *Inspire future pharmacists* – Every student pharmacist is unique, bringing a different attitude, perspective, interest, skill, or knowledge level. A mentor can motivate, shape, and influence these traits and help guide students toward a rewarding and successful career.
- *Professional resource* – Mentoring students is an excellent way to keep abreast of current issues, topics, disease state management, and drug information. While you can be certain every student will learn from you, every mentor also learns from his or her student as well.
- *Build your professional network* – APhA represents all pharmacists from every practice setting. Serving as a mentor helps to build new and strengthen existing relationships.
- *Identify future residents and employees* – Mentors interact with student pharmacists in unique situations, offering insight and the opportunity to identify future residents and employees.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Getting involved is easy and will not take a lot of your time! If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in serving as an APhA New Practitioner Mentor, contact Tom English, APhA Director of New Practitioner Development, by sending an e-mail to tenglish@aphanet.org. Be sure to include the name of the school or college of pharmacy with which you would like to work.