International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation
Contact Person’s Report

American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP)
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1. Introduction

American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) aims to be the collective voice of student pharmacists, to provide opportunities for professional growth, to improve patient care, and to envision and advance the future of pharmacy. It is one of three academies within the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and it represents APhA’s student pharmacist members. Currently, there are over 32,000 student pharmacists that are members of APhA-ASP at 132 colleges of pharmacy across the United States of America.

The daily operations of the academy are conducted by staff members as well as five student pharmacists that make up the nationally elected National Executive Committee. These APhA-ASP leaders also work with five designated APhA-ASP National Standing Committees: Awards, Communication, Education, Policy, and International. The International Standing Committee is comprised of the IPSF National Officers.

2. Education and Practice Activities

American Pharmacist Month

Every October, American Pharmacist Month (APhM) is celebrated in the United States. With the theme of “Know Your Pharmacist, Know Your Medicine” student pharmacists and other APhA members around the country focus on educating the public, policy makers, and other healthcare professionals about the importance of pharmacists as members of the healthcare team. APhA-ASP delivers a plethora of tools and resources for each chapter and member to use in order to join the celebration.

Midyear Regional Meetings

APhA-ASP is organized into eight regions across the United States of America, each of which hosts a Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM), the only meetings in the U.S.A. that are designed solely for student pharmacists. They include leadership training, job expositions, informational presentations, poster presentations, and regional awards. Student pharmacists are able to collaborate with other chapters from around their area. Hundreds of student pharmacists attended each of the MRMs this year.
APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition

The APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition is the largest meeting held annually by APhA. Amongst other things, it includes social, educative and leadership development programming specifically for APhA-ASP members. Student pharmacists meet at the APhA-ASP House of Delegates to set their vision of the future of pharmacy via policy, where there is representation from each student chapter. Other student programming includes the closing celebration, educational programs, career connection, and community pharmacy residency showcases. This year Annual Meeting & Exposition was held in San Diego, California. Thousands of pharmacists and student pharmacists, and other associated health care professionals were in attendance.

National Patient Counseling Competition

The National Patient Counseling Competition (NPCC) begins at the local level. Each student chapter holds a competition to select one student pharmacist who will represent them at APhA Annual Meeting at the national level. Any member of APhA-ASP may participate in the local competition at their school of pharmacy. The winner of each school of pharmacy will receive the chance to compete on the national level at the APhA-ASP Annual Meeting. At the national level, student pharmacists are evaluated on both the content and style of the counseling session. This year, there were 126 national contestants, and many more at the local level. The top 10 finalists, including the national winner, was announced at the APhA-ASP Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony.

Summer Leadership Institute

Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) is a highly anticipated annual leadership training conference that occurs in July. In this event, student pharmacists who are in leadership at local, regional, and national positions meet in Washington, DC. Time is spent teaching new leaders about the importance of advocating for the profession, network, and developing their leadership skills.

3. Public Health Activities

HIV/AIDS:

25 student chapters across the U.S.A. reported organizing unique events to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. More than 1600 students participated, helping to educate their local communities about HIV/AIDS. Some chapters also held fundraisers, collecting $10775.05. The University of Arkansas raised $6078, Lipscomb university raised $2912.05, and the University of Missouri- Kansas City raised $1785 which went to various HIV/AIDS organizations around their local communities. Events organized by student leaders included week long activities, wearing red to promote awareness about HIV/AIDS, handing out the red ribbon, holding candle light vigils, and inviting guest speakers to talk about HIV/AIDS to students.

Humanitarian Campaign:

This year, 26 APhA-ASP student chapters also competed for the Vampire Cup and raised about 1120 units of blood, which is 30% more than last year’s unit. Many schools were especially successful when
they created a competition between pharmacy classes or between all of health care professional students on their campus, often rewarding the winning classes. We also initiated a blood drive at the APhA Annual meeting and exposition in San Diego, where all participants were encouraged to donate throughout their time at the conference. In addition, 8 chapters also reported taking part in Pharmabridge. These chapters succeeded in donating 788 books and collecting $534 through a variety of collaborations, and many of these book were delivered to over 6 countries in Africa.

**Diabetes and Healthy Living:**

In the U.S.A., IPSF works in collaboration with APhA-ASP to promote diabetes awareness. Schools participated in events on World Diabetes Day as well as throughout the year, targeting under-served, immigrant, migrant worker, and refugee populations throughout the USA. This year, 20 chapters reported 78 events focused on the IPSF Diabetes and Healthy Living Campaign. The University of Arkansas was featured in one of their local television stations while educating the public about healthy eating habits.

**TB Campaign:**

While TB is not as much of a concern in the USA, this year 6 schools participated in the TB Campaign. At some these events, student pharmacists educated patients through international health fairs on TB and how to prevent the spread of TB.

**Tobacco Alert Campaign:**

Student pharmacists primarily focus on education and screening for smoking cessation for the Tobacco Alert Campaign. This year, over 11 APhA-ASP chapters reported holding 22 Tobacco Alert and Smoking Cessation events, reaching over 2000 people through screening and education. The University of Georgia was able to impact their community by creating awareness about the dangers of smoking with their "Stache the Ash" Campaign.

**APhA-ASP Patient Care & Community Service Projects**

APhA-ASP also has many of its own campaigns known as Patient Care Projects and Community Service Projects: Operation Heart, Operation Diabetes, Operation Immunization, and Generation Rx. Each focuses on education, screening, and community outreach for its respective disease state: heart disease, diabetes, vaccine-preventative diseases, and over-the-counter medication use and prescription drug abuse. Many APhA-ASP chapters focus much of their efforts on these projects. Outstanding chapters in each of these projects are recognized for their achievements at APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition and the Midyear Regional Meetings.
4. Student Exchange Programme

The Student Exchange Programme (SEP) is continuing to grow in number as APhA-ASP student pharmacists learn more about the program. The U.S.A. national officers have worked hard to continue to increase awareness of SEP throughout the country and to keep the program running smoothly.

Our goals for 2014-2015 were to keep at least the same number of host sites and build upon the success we had at these sites in the previous year. We were able to do this by having online meetings with our new and returning LEOs and creating an LEO Facebook group. This allowed host sites to communicate about strengths and weaknesses of their sites and how they could improve. After SEP was over for the year we created a promotional online magazine to highlight different exchanges APhA-ASP students participated in and provide information about becoming involved with SEP. We are continue to try to make the SEP process more efficient for our SEO, SEO-elect, and LEOs, and are continuing work on a USA Visa Manual for students who may have problems obtaining a visa to participate in exchanges in the USA.

Presently, SEP is occurring at 25 different schools and colleges of pharmacy across the United States of America. Students will continue to come through the end of September. For the 2015-2016 SEP year we are expecting approximately 35 incoming students and 60 outgoing students.

5. Other Activities

At such a pivotal time for the profession of pharmacy in the U.S.A., Policy and advocacy for the profession of pharmacy continues to be a primary focus of APhA as well as APhA-ASP. As pharmacists and student pharmacists continue to advocate for health care provider status in the U.S.A., participation in collaborative programs between IPSF and APhA-ASP are better preparing our student pharmacists to contribute to the strength of the health care team and improved patient health.

6. Closing Remarks

IPSF within APhA-ASP is rapidly growing in many aspects. APhA-ASP members will be well represented with 17 student pharmacists attending 61st World Congress, and the SEP has increased both local exchange sites and our placements abroad.

In summary, it has been an excellent year for IPSF and APhA-ASP. As Contact Person of APhA-ASP/IPSF, I could have asked for nothing more the support of my current team, and the passion and vision for IPSF we all share. IPSF and APhA-ASP are two very strong, involved organizations serving as a voice for student pharmacists. We hope that increasing the amount of coordination between the two will greatly increase the strength of that voice within the U.S.A. for years to come.