IPSF 101

What is the difference between the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) and the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF)?

APhA-ASP is the academy of APhA dedicated to student pharmacists. APhA-ASP represents 34,500 student pharmacists from all 129 colleges of pharmacy throughout the United States of America.

The International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) is the largest organization made up of student pharmacists across the world. IPSF represents 350,000 students in 84 different countries. Much like APhA-ASP within the U.S., IPSF provides leadership training, disease-focused public health campaigns, and networking opportunities throughout the world.

APhA-ASP is a full member-association of IPSF. This means that every student pharmacist who is a member of APhA-ASP is also a member of IPSF, no extra dues or paperwork required!

What benefits do I have as a member of IPSF?

As a member of IPSF you have many opportunities to get involved with the profession on an international level. Here is a brief overview of the many possibilities. Please read on or contact a member of the APhA-ASP International Standing Committee for more information.

Student Exchange Program (SEP) –

Allows student pharmacists that are members of APhA-ASP to travel around the world to experience pharmacy in a different country. Student pharmacists from around the world also can be hosted at APhA-ASP chapters around the U.S. See below for more information.

International, student pharmacist conferences –

- Pan American Regional Symposium (PARS): July 2014, Costa Rica
- World Healthcare Students’ Symposium (WHSS): TBD
- IPSF World Congress: July 31-August 10, 2014, Porto, Portugal
- World Health Assembly: May 19-24, 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

If you have any questions email the APhA-ASP National Contact Person at usaipsfcp@gmail.com (for PARS and World Congress see below).
Become internationally published –

There are many IPSF pharmacy magazines published including Phuture and SPOT, in which student pharmacists can write about pharmacy research or about their experiences with IPSF Public Health Campaigns. For more information contact the APhA-ASP National Contact Person (usaipsfc@gmail.com).

Participate in internationally focused public health campaigns –

IPSF promotes many different public health campaigns that focus on various healthcare problems seen worldwide. They can be found at ipsf.org/public_health. APhA-ASP generally focuses on the following:

- HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign
- Tobacco Alert Campaign
- Healthy Living and Diabetes Campaign
- Humanitarian Campaign

If you have any questions about the Public Health Campaigns contact the APhA-ASP National Project Coordinator at usaipsfnpc@gmail.com or view the IPSF Public Health Campaign documents on the IPSF Information page at pharmacist.com.

How do I get involved in SEP?

If you want to travel abroad during your summer there is a two-step application. First you must apply to be one of the APhA-ASP members selected to represent us in the SEP program through the SEP Pre-Application (found on pharmacist.com under APhA-ASP IPSF Information) This application becomes available in the early fall and is accepted on a rolling deadline from September 15th to November 1st each year. The sooner you turn in your application, the better your chances of being accepted. If you are a lucky student pharmacist selected instruction will be provided to you on how to apply to different countries through the IPSF SEP Database. For a list of countries that participate in SEP, please visit the IPSF SEP Database at sep.ipsf.org. **DO NOT apply to the IPSF SEP Database without being instructed to do so by the APhA-ASP/IPSF Student Exchange Officer.**

The number of APhA-ASP members we are allowed to send abroad is directly proportional on the number of student pharmacists we accept from other countries the previous year (at a 3:2 ratio, respectively). So increasing the number of host sites at APhA-ASP chapters is a must. Setting up a host site at your chapter is relatively easy if you follow the Guide to Creating a SEP Site along with the Local Exchange Officer (LEO) Training Manual (found on pharmacist.com
under IPSF Information). Hosting student pharmacists is very rewarding and will create life-long friendships around the world.

If you would like more information or are interested in becoming a host site, contact the Student Exchange Officer at usaipsfseo@gmail.com.

What is World Congress and what opportunities are there?

Each year, IPSF hosts a meeting called World Congress. It resembles the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition, but on the global level. It is a 10-day international pharmacy conference in which student pharmacists from all over the world come together to learn about international pharmacy. The many opportunities at World Congress include:

- Participation in the General Assembly, the decision-making body of IPSF (similar to APhA-ASP House of Delegates)
- Patient Counseling Competition (similar to APhA-ASP’s Patient Counseling Competition)
- Clinical Skills Competition (similar to ASHP’s Clinical Skills Event held at Midyear and at the local level)
- Compounding Competition
- Scientific Poster Competition and presentations
- Student Workshops
- Educational and Scientific Symposium days (presentations by world-renown leaders in pharmacy)
- Networking opportunities at the many themed social and cultural events
- Leadership opportunities, both at the Leaders-In-Training event before the congress and as serving IPSF in an official position.
- Post-Congress Tour throughout the hosting country

The 59th World Congress was held in August of 2013 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. There were 19 APhA-ASP members in attendance. If you would like information about attending the 60th World Congress in Porto, Portugal during the summer of 2014 please visit their website (www.2014.ipsf.org), or check out their Facebook Page (facebook.com/ipsf2014), or contact your APhA-ASP National Contact Person (usaipsfcp@gmail.com).

What is PARO and PARS?

In IPSF there are five regions, which is very similar to the different regions within APhA-ASP. The five regions within IPSF are Pan American Regional Office (PARO), African Regional Office (AfRO), European Regional Office (EuRO), Asian Pacific Regional Office (APRO), and Eastern
Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO). Each region represents a number of countries that are members of IPSF. APhA-ASP fits in PARO with Canada, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Haiti, Paraguay, and Peru. These form the currently active member associations of PARO.

The Pan American Regional Symposium (PARS) is the regional meeting of PARO. The structure of this meeting is similar to World Congress. In the recent past PARO has not held its regional symposium. However, this will change in July of 2014 as PARO members will be meeting at PARS in Costa Rica. For more information, email your APhA-ASP National Contact Person (usaipsfcp@gmail.com).

What leadership opportunities are there that involve IPSF?

**APhA-ASP National Positions**

- Contact Person
- Student Exchange Officer
- Student Exchange Officer-elect
- National Project Coordinator

**IPSF Executive Offices (elected during World Congress)**

- President
- Secretary General
- Treasurer
- Chairperson of Pharmacy Education
- Chairperson of Professional Development
- Chairperson of Public Health
- Chairperson of External Relations
- Chairperson of Internal Relations
- Chairperson of Student Exchange
- Chairperson of Media and Publications
- Chairperson of PARO

**PARO Officer (elected during World Congress)**

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Internal Coordinator and Communication Officer
- Regional Relations Officer
- Regional Projects Officer
- Chairperson of Receptions Committee
- Immediate Past Chairperson

**IPSF Coordinator or committee members** –

Watch for notifications on APhA-ASP/IPSF Facebook or via email notification around the time of World Congress. Or, email the National Contact Person (usaipsfc@gmail.com).

**What websites/materials/documents/etc. should I use to find references about IPSF?**

- www.ipsf.org
- http://www.facebook.com/APhA.ASP.IPSF
- https://www.facebook.com/ipsf.paro
- https://www.facebook.com/IPSForg
- APhA-ASP/IPSF National Officers

**8. Who should I contact if I have questions about IPSF?**

- APhA-ASP/IPSF National Contact Person: usaipsfc@gmail.com
- APhA-ASP/IPSF National Student Exchange Officer: usaipsfseo@gmail.com
- APhA-ASP/IPSF National Student Exchange Officer-elect: usaipsfseo@gmail.com
- APhA-ASP/IPSF National Projects Coordinator: usaipsfnpc@gmail.com