Introduction

The International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) is the world’s largest professional organization for student pharmacists worldwide representing over 350,000 students across 87 different countries. The World Congress is the largest gathering of pharmacy students from all around the world. It is a conference that is held every year during the summer. This year, the 58th IPSF World Congress was held at the Golden Five Hotel Resorts in Hurghada, Egypt from August 1st-August 11th. The Leadership in Training (LIT) took place 3 days prior to the start of the conference, and the Post Congress Tours (PCT) followed immediately after the Congress. The Egyptian Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (EPSF) was the primary host of this conference. Its partners include: Egyptian Pharmacists Syndicate (EPS), Ministry of Health and Population of Egypt, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Culture, Pharco Pharmaceuticals, and Sanofi S.A. This year, over 500 students from 49 different countries attended World Congress. APhA-ASP, as the only full member organization representing the United States, brought the largest delegation of 44 student pharmacists to World Congress.

General Assembly

As an international organization that advocates for the role of student pharmacists and pharmacists worldwide, IPSF’s General Assembly (GA), which consists of Official Delegates (OD) from all full member organizations and members in association, is the highest decision making body of IPSF. Each association is allowed up to 3 delegates representing on behalf of the home organization’s opinions. Only full member organizations are allowed to vote on official IPSF motions.

The purpose of the General Assembly is to discuss past year’s achievements and to decide on future directions of the Federation. During nine 4-hour sessions, the GA voted on issues regarding new member organizations, new executive members, host of the 60th World Congress, annual budget, changes to the IPSF Constitution, various new motions proposed by individual member organizations, and appointments of the new Regional Working Groups.
Major changes in IPSF this year approved by the GA include:

- Removal of Iceland as a full member organization of IPSF
- Approval of new Members in Association including: Brazil, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine
- Approval of new Full Member Association: Zimbabwe
- Decision on the location of the 60th World Congress in 2014 to be Porto, Portugal
- Changes in IPSF Standing Order: all chairpersons of the IPSF regional offices will be included as official members of the IPSF Executive Board starting from the next GA. Nominations will have to be approved at the Regional Symposium and the chairpersons must be officially elected by the GA during World Congress. The IPSF Executive Board will increase to 14 positions instead of 10.
- Approval to investigate the possibility to put in place a new certificate program titled: The Young Researcher’s Program. The program will be examined by the Chairperson of Pharmacy Education, and be available for interested students to complete a 3-6 months field research practice to become a certified researcher. Program details will follow throughout the year and at the next GA
- Approval to organize the first Medication Compounding Competition by the next World Congress. The event details will be provided by the Chairperson of Professional Development. The GA has also approved the addition of a Medication Compounding Competition Coordinator position supervised by the Chairperson of Professional Development to facilitate the organization of this event.
- Approval to investigate of the possibility for the EURO region to have a representative on the IPSF Executive Board since the EURO region does not have a chairperson.
- Approval of the formation of a Sponsorship Committee and a Sponsorship Coordinator supervised by the Treasurer
- Approval of the formation of a Membership Promotion Committee supervised by the Chairperson of External Relations

Leadership in IPSF

IPSF’s leadership structure consists of the IPSF Executive Board, The IPSF Regional Working Groups, IPSF Coordinators and IPSF Subcommittees:
Members of the IPSF Executive Board must be elected at by the General Assembly. All nominees must fill out an application. The application is then displayed publicly. Each candidate must also prepare a 4 min speech and answer any questions from the floor prior to closing of discuss. Voting takes place in the candidate’s absence during a closed session. If no candidate is successfully elected, the position will be appointed by the newly elected Executive Committee at a later date.

This year, the GA elected the following Executive Board Members:

President: Radoslaw Mitura (Poland)
Secretary General: Angela Sester (Germany)
Treasurer: Veronika Sochová (Czech Republic)
Chairperson of Pharmacy Education: Marouen Ben Guebila (Tunisia)
Chairperson of Professional Development: Eric So (Canada)
Chairperson of Public Health: Hager Ben Mosbah (Tunisia)
Chairperson of Internal Relations: Maroua Ben Mbarek (Tunisia)
Chairperson of External Relations: Dayl Eccles (United States)
Chairperson of Media and Publications: Alexandra Marques (Portugal)
Chairperson of Student Exchange: Joana Carrasqueira (Portugal)
Chairperson of African Regional Office (co-opted): Afadhali Diallo (Algeria)
Chairperson of Asia Pacific Regional Office (co-opted): Geoffrey Chai (Singapore)
Chairperson of Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (co-opted): Anas Siddig (Sudan)
Chairperson of Pan American Regional Office (co-opted): Van Duong (United States)
Chairperson of 59th IPSF Congress in the Netherlands (co-opted): Thomas Kempen (the Netherlands)

The GA also approved the nominations for the new Regional Working Group for the Pan-American Regional Office (PARO) as follows:

Chairperson: Van Duong (United States)
Secretary: Miranda Law (United States)
Internal Coordination and Communication Officer: Jessica Gonzalez (United States)
Regional Relations Officer: Lucas Ercolin (Brazil)
Regional Projects Officer: Amber Liu (Canada)

In addition to the Executive Board and the Regional Working Group, IPSF has 11 subcommittees and 17 coordinator position, all of which were successfully appointed by the newly elected Executive Board 2012-2013.

APhA-ASP has the following students holding various leadership positions in IPSF this year:

Chairperson of External Relations: Dayl Eccles
Chairperson of Pan American Regional Office: Van Duong
Secretary of Pan American Regional Office: Miranda Law
Internal Coordination and Communication Officer of Pan American Regional Office: Jessica Gonzalez
Design and Creativity Subcommittee: Ji Yeong Hwang
Editorial Board: Yuqian Liu
Public Health Subcommittee: Sheena Patel, Stephanie Komura, Alana Zapata
Humanitarian Subcommittee: Kenneth Leonard
Student Exchange Committee: Miranda Law
Educational Sessions and Workshops

During the 10-day conference, students participated in multiple workshops and educational sessions to develop a deeper understanding of IPSF. Topics for this year’s workshops included: Medicine Awareness, Anti-Counterfeit Drugs, Tobacco Awareness, Anti-Tuberculosis, Diabetes and Healthy Living, Professional Awareness, HIV/AIDS, and Humanitarian Campaigns. There was also a live diabetes campaign where students performed a diabetes dance live and practiced on checking the patient’s serum glucose level using the glucose meters. These workshops really broadened the student’s perspectives on how practices are in other countries and how they are different from back home. They also reminded the students that there are many different fields of pharmacy practices around the world and the opportunities within.

Two student pharmacists from APhA-ASP, Yuqian Liu and Miranda Law, also gave a workshop on professional writing. Approximately 60 students attended the workshop on day 2. There was a 45-minute powerpoint presentation followed by a 30 minute group activity where the students composed their own pieces of professional communication given an actual case scenario.

Scientific and Educational Symposiums

The Scientific Symposium and the Educational Symposium each took a full day in the World Congress Schedule where professional experts from different fields of pharmacy came to educate the students on current issues in the field of pharmacy. All congress attendees were required to participate in these two events.

The theme for this year’s Educational Symposium was “Pharmacists without Boarders”. The opening speaker for the Educational Symposium was Dr. Robert Sindelar (Professor and Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of British Columbia). He addressed the issue on redesigning the schools of pharmacy to meet today’s healthcare challenges. He gave examples using the University of British Columbia and how the university underwent curricular changes as well as changes in the administrative system and physical changes around the campus itself to facilitate better learning. The second presentation was by Mr. Abdullatif Alokifi (Pharmacy Director at Riyadh Care Hospital) on how pharmacists can build trust with patients. He used his real work examples to demonstrate the concept of confidentiality and credibility of a healthcare professional. The third presentation was by representatives from FIP (Federation of International Pharmacists) on the newest results from the FIP’s “Moving On” research. The study analyzed student’s motivations and reasons to study pharmacy across the globe. The results of the study were not yet published, but it was very interesting to see the differences in response between students of different regions, genders, and years in study. The last presentation was by Dr. Amira Senbel (Alexandria University) on current research practices. It was very interesting to see that even though pharmacy practices across the globe are vastly different, the research protocols and stands are all the same.

The Scientific Symposium this year focused around the theme “Advances in pharmaceutical sciences and practice: working towards a better future”. The three speakers in the morning all focused on new and innovative developments in the pharmaceutical field such as toxicology breakthroughs and new global educational research. The afternoon sessions consisted of different workshops and poster presentations.
Two students from APhA-ASP, Christine Cooper and Lauren Graham, presented a workshop titled GenerationRx: Why the Message Gets Across to Students. The workshop focused around the topic of medication misuse, medication overdose and medication noncompliance and how student pharmacists can help advance patient care. The idea of GenerationRx, initiated as an official project by APhA-ASP, is now making its remarks on the international level with dozens of other countries corresponding to the message.

Ten student pharmacists from APhA-ASP entered the poster competition and presented on various topics from easy-fill programs to medication therapy management. Students from APhA-ASP were able to earn all top 3 places for the poster competition:

First place- Ae Ri Lee, University of Arizona
Second Place- Nourhane Badawi, Texas Southern University
Third Place- Van Duong, Susan Deng, Adaeze Okeh, University of the Pacific

**Patient Counseling and Clinical Skills Competitions**

As tradition, IPSF organized Patient Counseling and Clinical Skills Competition during World Congress. The IPSF Patient Counseling Competition includes a beginner and an advanced level. For both levels, cases are distributed to the participants 24 hours before the competition, and the participants must analyze the case and counsel on the use of the new prescription as well as any drug interaction and or adverse events that are present in the case. All participants go through the preliminary round and the top three competitors enter the final round. This year, two student pharmacists from APhA-ASP placed in the top three for the beginner level:

Nourhane Badawi, Texas Southern University
Stephanie Komura, Thomas Jefferson University

**Social Events**

In addition to the workshops and General Assembly during the day, social and networking events are also a great highlight of World Congress. These were the times that relationships were made, bonds were formed, and lifelong friendships were born.

**International Night**

Each country brought its signature food and beverages and wore traditional cloths that would best display its culture. Each country may also choose to perform a dance that would represent the culture. APhA-ASP, with its largest delegation of 44 students, brought the most amounts of food and beverages (See photo below). All US students were asked to wear a T-shirt with an American Flag. The US also performed a dance that is a mixture of The Wobble, YMCA, swing dance, and Country Line Dance. The delegation very remarkably represented APhA-ASP as well as the country.

**Auction Night**

Each participant was asked to bring an item that represents the culture of the home country prior to arrival. Students from APhA-ASP brought everything from candy to American football to “I heart NY” T-shirt to college water bottles. Many of these items were auctioned out during
the Auction Night and the remainder was distributed out as raffle prizes. All funds raised went towards the IPSF Development Fund.

**Excursion Desert Safari**

When one thinks of Egypt, the first thing that comes to mind may just be the vast desert and the endless sight of sand. This year, the hosting organization designated an entire afternoon to take all the attendees on a special excursion through the desert. The program also included camel riding, sand buggy riding, traditional dances and Egyptian Barbeque.

**Gala Night**

Gala Night was the conclusion of World Congress. It is a night of both sadness and joy as the participants say their final goodbyes to each other and start looking forward to the next Congress. Gala Night is also the night were all the award winners are announced. APhA-ASP represented outstandingly this year. Aside from the awards received in the Poster Competition and Patient Counseling Competition stated above, the APhA-ASP/IPSF National Contact Person, Yuqian Liu, also won the best Contact Person Award for the Pan-American Region. As the 58th IPSF World Congress came to its end, many memories were made, and hopes were left for the 59th IPSF World Congress, to see what Utrecht, the Netherlands have to offer.

**Closing Remarks**

On behalf of APhA-ASP/IPSF, we’d like to say our biggest “thank you” to the APhA Staff and the APhA-ASP Executive Committee for all the help and support. This year, APhA-ASP/IPSF went under revolutionary changes as we bind APhA-ASP and IPSF closer together in heart and in spirit. We see IPSF as a great growth potential for the future, and hope that with each year’s experiences and dedications added on, APhA-ASP/IPSF can grow stronger and benefit more student pharmacists in the United States.
Photos

Jeremy Lund, APhA-ASP/IPSF National Public Relations Officer
Miranda Law, APhA-ASP/IPSF National Student Exchange Officer
Yuqian Liu, APhA-ASP/IPSF National Contact Person
Representing APhA-ASP, United States, at the General Assembly

Yuqian Liu, APhA-ASP/IPSF
National Contact Person, Best Contact Person Award for the Pan-American Region
The US Table during International Night
APhA-ASP receives the US Flag during the Opening Ceremony

Group Discussion during the Educational Symposium with representatives from Ghana and Switzerland