

# THE PITT CAPSULE

SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION

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# ***AMCP: Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy***

**Author: Stephen Zhang (P3)  
Director of Communications**

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy is the national professional association of pharmacists and other healthcare practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to improve healthcare for all. The Academy's 5,700 members develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational, and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit.

Student chapter of AMCP at Pitt aims to promote the managed care pharmacy as a non-traditional route for student pharmacists who are interested in optimizing cost-effective medication therapies for patients, and better pharmacoeconomic outcomes for the healthcare industry. By hosting guest speakers from multiple insurance plans and managed care residency programs, student pharmacists will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the field and network with the professionals.

During the fall semester 2023, AMCP is mainly focused on promoting the annual Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Competition to all student pharmacists who are interested in managed care pharmacy or any related functional areas. Annual P&T competition is designed to provide an immersive experience in the skills necessary for effective formulary review and management. Student pharmacists usually work together in a team of 4 as if they are preparing for — and presenting to — a mock P&T Committee.

The University of Pittsburgh AMCP chapter will send out information for team formation this semester. The competition begins in the chapter level during the winter break, and the winner will submit their materials and may qualify to compete on the national level at the AMCP annual meeting. An entry to the National P&T Competition typically consists of (1) a written drug monograph evaluating the competition study drug, with recommendations for formulary placement and any associated utilization management strategies; and (2) narrated PowerPoint slides for a P&T Committee presentation. Preparing an entry involves extensive research into the clinical, humanistic, and pharmacoeconomic evidence supporting the value proposition of the study drug(s).

# ***APhA-ASP: American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists***

**Author: Yousuf Al-Abduladheem (P3)  
Vice President of Membership**

Happy start of Fall to everyone! Congratulations on making it through the first month of school! September has been packed with activities for new and returning students, most notably APhA's very own Welcome Back to School annual picnic! This year's event was an absolute success, being hosted at the upper lounge of the Peterson Event Center, and setting up over 20 different club organizations that span across the PharmD and the PhD programs. First year students were allowed to explore all the different opportunities and interests that the various organizations offer, and upperclassmen were able to display their plans and recruit members to their teams. Having all these clubs operate under the umbrella of APhA helps us maintain an interconnected network that ensures everyone is in!

As a reminder, all APhA members are sorted into one of our six Houses: Blue, Red, Yellow, Green, Purple, or Orange. These Houses are a way to help our members connect with each other in smaller groups, and we hope that you will all take advantage of the networking and mentoring opportunities they provide you. Each House will select two students to serve as House reps, which is a great leadership involvement opportunity. Houses can also earn points by having the members attend APhA-ASP events as well as other organizations' events. The top two Houses with the most points at the end of the year will receive prizes!

Thank you to all students who applied for an APhA-ASP leadership position, and congratulations to all of our new Executive Board and Committee members, and Project Leaders. Our APhA-ASP Chapter is known for many great projects, and we are excited to continue to uphold that standard of excellence for the 2021-2022 school year. If you missed any deadlines but would still like to get involved, don't hesitate to reach out to any Executive Board member, Committee member, or Project Leader. We would love to have you! Remember to like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram (@pittaphaasp) for events and other chapter updates.

# *Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity*

**Author: Lucas Gregoire  
Corresponding Secretary**

Hi Pitt Pharmacy! The month of September has been a busy month for Kappa Psi. We just finished our recruitment, and we are excited to welcome 25 pharmacy students within the fraternity! Olivia Frey and Autumn McConnell did an amazing job at organizing four recruitment events throughout the first couple weeks of school. The four recruitment events were the back to school picnic, a picnic at Cathy lawn, an information session, and a trivia night. The picnic at Cathy lawn was my personal favorite, as we had a great turn out of students to enjoy snacks and games such as volleyball, spikeball, and cornhole! The trivia night was also very fun as we played a jeopardy game and enjoyed tacos. The back to school picnic was an enjoyable experience, as for many of our Brothers, it was the first opportunity to meet the new pharmacy class. Each of the recruitment events were great breaks from class and allowed us to get to know the new pharmacy class.

We are preparing for Kappa Psi's Fall Mountain East Province Assembly on October 20-22 in Buffalo, New York.

The province assemblies are great ways for our chapter to connect and network with other collegiate and graduate Brothers from across the Mountain East Province.

We would also like to congratulate Braidon Lape, as he was awarded the Kappa Psi Foundations Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes Braidon's academic, leadership, and community work. He was the only Brother within the Mountain East Province to be awarded this scholarship.



# ***LKS: Lambda Kappa Sigma***

**Author: Brinn Mancusco (P2)  
Corresponding Secretary**

Welcome back to another year of Pitt Pharmacy! The Delta Chapter of LKS is looking forward to a new school year and welcoming new and current members! Over the summer, Mia Como (President), Charlotte Nazar (treasurer), and Ann Kozak (President-Elect) attended the LKS National Convention in Norfolk, VA. They met with LKS alumni and connected with collegiate members from all over the country to gather new ideas and establish ways to connect with the community. We are also excited to connect with the Tau Chapter of LKS at Duquesne University School of Pharmacy.

After the Back-to-School Picnic, we have been focused on recruitment events. Recruitment chairs, Hunter Kline and Daniella Perlov, hosted three successful recruitment events for potential new members and current members. We ate donuts, relaxed at yoga, and painted glasses. We are excited to announce that we will be welcoming 47 New Members this semester and cannot wait to get to know them throughout their time in LKS!

We are also planning upcoming fundraising and professional events. We are hosting an APPE info session with P4 members, planning our Women Pharmacist Day Event, and working on a fundraiser at a restaurant on campus. Make sure to follow us on Instagram @lks\_delta\_chapter to stay updated! We're looking forward to a great year!

# ***PDC: Phi Delta Chi***

**Author: Brian Vo (P2)**  
**Worthy Keeper of Records and Seals**

Hello! Phi Delta Chi's (PDC) Mu Chapter is excited to return for another eventful school year. As a professional pharmacy fraternity, we want to provide a home for professionals and inspire Brotherhood, Leadership, Service, and Scholarship. This past summer, P3 brother, Anurag Ankathi, represented our chapter at the 74th Grand Counsel in Houston, Texas where he was able to meet other brothers and speak on the future of PDC.

At the Back2School Picnic, we were ecstatic to meet the new P1s as well as other pharmacy students interested in joining our chapter. Those interested were able to join the brothers for a nice barbecue to converse and get to know the chapter better. It was a great turnout! Next, they were able to join the Mu chapter in playing Mario Kart on September 12th. Alongside the Pitt Pharmacy Investment Portfolio, we hosted a guest speaker, PDC and Pitt alumni, Colin Pfeiffer, with pizza to showcase Phi Delta Chi's emphasis on making connections and professional development.

We have many events coming up, so be sure to be on the lookout for our fundraising, community, and philanthropy events. In the coming few weeks, you will most likely see PDC brothers talking about our popcorn fundraising event. If you love popcorn, be sure to flag a brother down and purchase one or two for yourself!

# PPA: Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

**Author: Alayne Gaghan (P2)  
Communications Ambassador**



September 13th was our first general body meeting of the semester where we were able to introduce the e-board and talk about all of the exciting plans we have for this semester. We raffled off four Yankee Candles as well! September 18th was our PPA membership drive where new and existing members were able to register (or re-register) for PPA and enter to win our raffle for three Pitt Pharmacy Patagonias and some Squishmallows. Make sure to attend some of our events for free snacks and chances to win prizes! We have many fun events coming up including industry events and Preceptor Appreciation Day. Our yearly Pitt Pharmacy Patagonia sale will also be starting very soon! Be sure to follow us on Instagram @ppa\_pitt to stay up to date on our upcoming events and fundraisers, as well as meet the e-board! We cannot wait to continue advocating for Pennsylvania pharmacists and spending time together at these entertaining and informative events.

Happy September! We are so glad to be back in Salk Hall and with the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association. PPA focuses on advocating for pharmacists in PA and advancing the profession. Over the summer, some of our members took a trip to Washington DC to advocate for pharmacists in our nation's capital. We are involved with many pharmacy topics such as policy making and advocacy, industry, community, and hospital. There is a place for everyone in PPA! We were so excited to participate in the Back2School Picnic and get to connect with returning and prospective members. We were also so happy to meet all of the P1s!



# ***PPIP: Pittsburgh Pharmacy Investment Portfolio***

**Author: Stephen Zhang (P3)  
Director of Communications**

PPIP's mission is to expand student pharmacists' awareness of trends in the pharmaceutical industry and to work to develop our members' confidence in investing and preparing for future financial success. The organization runs the Biotech Investment Fantasy League, participates in the due diligence of healthcare stocks, and holds regular meetings where members discuss topics related to developments in the healthcare market.

For the fall semester 2023, PPIP is planning to host more guest speaker sessions to help students learn more about the investment field and network with alumni. Our first GBM, also a joint event with Phi Delta Chi Professional Fraternity (PDC) on September 13th, had invited Colin Pfeiffer, PharmD class of 2021, one of the founders of PPIP and a fellow PDC alumni brother to talk about his career path, experience with PPIP and PDC, and how that experience helped him in his later career. Other PPIP events during the school year and E-Board members were introduced to the attendees. Another guest speaker event is coming, and the date is TBD.

Biotech Investment Fantasy League (BIFL) is another major event of PPIP for this semester. As an ongoing competition through out the semester, students will be using an investment simulator to monitor stocks, doing research on the pharmaceutical and biotech companies to make critical judgements and investment, also carefully collecting data for portfolio managements. The top 10 competitors will have the opportunity to present their portfolios and thought processes of managing investments in a PowerPoint format to other PPIP members and judges. The winner is going to win a cash prize sponsored by the organization.



# ***Rho Chi: Academic Honor Society in Pharmacy***

**Author: Jennifer Van Hook (P3)  
Historian**

Welcome back from Rho Chi! We are the academic honor society in pharmacy at Pitt and we seek to advance pharmacy through sustained intellectual leadership. We started off the semester by attending the Back-to-School Picnic where we introduced ourselves to the new P1 class. Members of Rho Chi E-board had the opportunity to discuss our tutoring services, upcoming events, and goals for the semester. We had a great time meeting everyone!

Our organization also held the first general body meeting of the semester. We had our last group meeting at the spring induction ceremony, so this was a great opportunity to discuss our goals and events for this year. We are currently advertising our tutoring services to the P1 and P2 students in courses such as biochemistry, anatomy, cardiology, and pharmacokinetics. Group review sessions and one-on-one tutoring are available and facilitated through our two amazing tutoring chairs Riya Yadav (P3) and Keri Courtnage (P3).

In terms of upcoming events, Rho Chi will be holding our first blood drive on October 18th at Salk Hall in room 5650. This event was planned by our Vice President, Emma Reed (P3) in collaboration with Vitalant. Additionally, we will be resuming our monthly health lectures at the Salvation Army. Lectures will be held on the second Thursday of every month at 6PM.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or tutoring requests, and follow our social media to stay up to date on all of the great events we are planning this semester! @rhochi\_alphaomicron

# ***SCCP: Student College of Clinical Pharmacy***

**Author: Michelle Gonsalves**

Fall is finally upon us and with it the students at SCCP are incredibly excited to kickstart a new year filled with lots of fun and learning. It was a pleasure to meet the new P1 pharmacy class at the Back-to-School Picnic and encourage them to foster clinical pharmacy and research. We have a lot of interesting sessions and opportunities to help them get their feet wet. We hosted our first Journal Club with our President Evan Cooney in September and have two more sessions planned this month and in November! It is a great opportunity for students to dive into current research and literature surrounding pharmacy.

As part of our community initiative, we have multiple service events planned at Global Links, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank on October 4th, as well as the Pitt CoVax Center! It is a great opportunity to understand the community we live in and start providing active care. Our annual wine glass fundraiser is in the works, and you should be able to purchase one soon, keep an eye out! We are also currently working to bring in residents to provide a more in-depth view of research projects during residency.

With so many exciting new events on the horizon, it is important to also look back and appreciate all that we have achieved. SCCP had Dr. Donihi and Dr. Ruby host our annual Clinical Pharmacy Challenge on August 29th, 2023. We had students from all classes participate in teams to test out their clinical pharmacy knowledge.

A huge congratulations to Mary Zhuang, Costen Santelmo, and Sydney Lee on winning and advancing to the new round! We are incredibly happy to see you representing Pitt on the national level and wish you the very best.

We held our first general body meeting early this September and we hope to keep generating interest in our club. We currently have multiple positions open! We are looking for our new P1 representative as well as project leads for Project Health Literacy, Project Pulmonology, and Project Self-Care. These are not only great ways to boost your resume but also to get involved with faculty and researchers while expand your understanding of our field! All of us at SCCP are enthusiastic about this upcoming year and look forward to promoting clinical pharmacy advancement in the student sphere and beyond in new and unique ways.

# ***SSHP: Student Society of Health System Pharmacists***

**Author: Alexis Caprio (P3)  
Internal Development Chair**

Welcome back! SSHP kicked off the school year with the annual Back-to-School Picnic on September 7th and our first GBM on September 13th, where we welcomed prospective members to the organization. Pictured here are our current e-board members after the first GBM. We were all so happy to see friendly faces excited to see what SSHP has to offer this year.

One highlight from the first month back together was our oncology speaker session with a chemotherapy pharmacist from UPMC Children's Hospital. Dr. Jahoda educated student pharmacists on the daily life of a chemotherapy pharmacist and presented students with yet another career opportunity that we can have in the future as practicing pharmacists.

Coming up, we have our Residency 101 panel featuring PGY-1 resident pharmacists with UPMC, Allegheny Health Network, and the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center on Thursday, October 5th, from 5-7pm. There will be time for questions, which are encouraged to be submitted to SSHP prior to the event. This is a great time for anyone interested in completing advanced training as a resident to learn about the application process, a day in the life of a resident, and what happens next after residency. All are welcome - you do not have to be a member of SSHP to attend! Membership dues are \$10 and will close on October 8th. Additional membership opportunities include memberships to the Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists (state level) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (national level), but these are not required for membership with Pitt Pharmacy's chapter of SSHP.

Additionally, we will have our annual Clinical Skills Competition on Monday, October 9th and Tuesday, October 10th. Sign-ups concluded on September 29th, and the winners of the competition will represent Pitt Pharmacy at ASHP Midyear in Anaheim. Stay tuned for more updates on events throughout the semester!

