

PITT CAPSULE

February Edition

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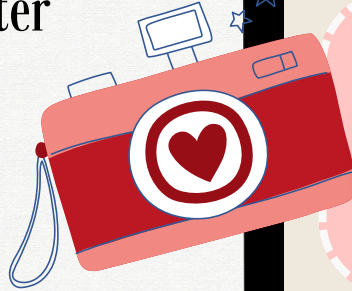
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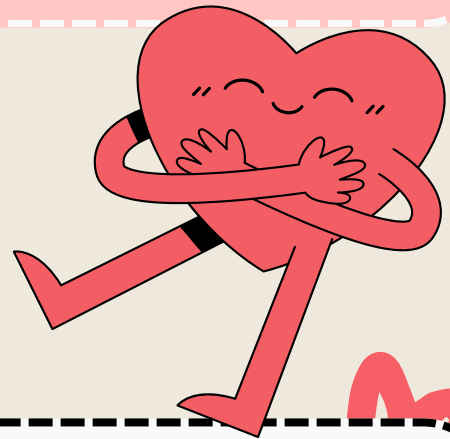
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PHARMACY WEEK WAS IN FEBRUARY!

February was full of celebrations!
This month, Pitt APhA-ASP
celebrated pharmacy week with
fun activities! Thank you all for
participating!

WE HOPE EVERYONE
HAD A GREAT SPRING
BREAK!



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APhA-ASP: American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists

Author: Shannon Osborne (P3) Membership Vice President

From all of us at APhA-ASP, we hope everyone is having a great semester so far! With the first wave of exams occurring, we encourage students to study their best but ensure they are taking time to de-stress once they're over. Keep up the good work!



Our members are getting ready to attend the APhA Annual Meeting in March in Nashville, Tennessee! We're excited to network with student pharmacists from across the country and other professionals who will be in attendance. The APhA Annual Meeting always provides excellent opportunities to meet professionals in multiple areas of interest and showcase all of the amazing organizations and activities going on at Pitt Pharmacy! There will be many informative sessions on various pharmacy topics, especially involving policy changes and community leadership. Pitt Pharmacy encourages its students to attend the meeting. Additionally, APhA-ASP members will be provided travel reimbursement! For those who were unable to attend this year, we encourage you to sign up next year to attend the meeting.

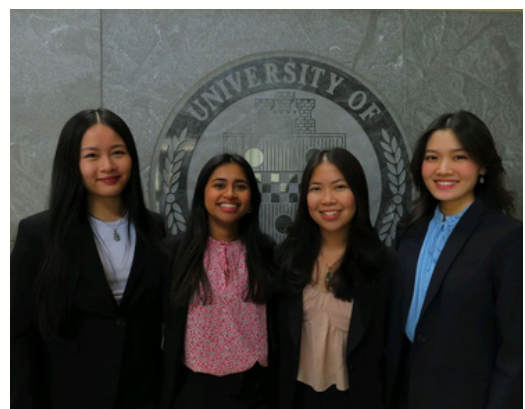
In other news, pharmacy week occurred from February 24 to February 27 during the lunch hour in Salk Hall! Pharmacy week allows students to meet people from different classes and build a sense of comradery within the school! It was a fun opportunity to put our pharmacy knowledge to the test while also competing in other non-pharmacy-related games. Some of these games included trivia, a spelling bee, and pictionary! We had snacks provided for each day and individual prizes for the winning teams. At the end of the week, we announced our winner and they received funds that could be used towards the PLS auction on Thursday, February 27. We hope everyone had fun participating in the games and getting to know their fellow classmates!

AMCP: Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy

Author: Mason Laudermilch (P3) Director of Communications

Happy mid-semester to everyone! We are hoping for warmer weather here soon! Recently, we had a collaboration event with ISPOR on an HEOR fellowship panel with current and incoming fellows: Cindy Chan, Caiden Lukan, Caroline Paley, and Steven Do. The students that attended were able to have a Q&A with the speakers which allowed for a unique perspective from other pharmacy schools in many different fields of pharmacy practice.

We are also very happy to report that we have moved into the national finals for the AMCP Pharmacy and Therapeutics competition! There were 43 schools in the contest, and we are among the top 5 teams to make it into the finals. This is great news as this is the first time that Pitt Pharmacy has had a team reach this far into the competition! This is a monumental honor for us, and we are grateful for the opportunity to get closer to the national stage at AMCP annual in Houston.



AMCP's 2025 Pitt Chapter P&T Competition Local Winners and National Finalists! Left to right: Lydia Nguyen (P3), Atreya Ghosh (P2), Tina Pham (P2), Jolie Nguyen (P2)

AMCP has another event to look out for with ISPOR and SASP on Thursday, March 20 at 12:00 PM in 9109! The event is a Managed Care Pharmacy resident panel with Prime therapeutics, so mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

ASOP: Association of Student Oncology Pharmacists

Author: Morgan Faircloth (P3) Secretary

The Association of Student Oncology Pharmacists (ASOP) hopes everyone had a great February! ASOP continues to provide valuable opportunities for students to engage with oncology-focused topics, including guest speakers, awareness events, and professional development sessions.

February was a busy month for ASOP, featuring impactful events aimed at educating students on oncology pharmacy. We had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Karen Fancher, a Board-Certified Oncology Pharmacist and a member of the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA). Dr. Fancher shared insights on her various roles in pharmacy, leadership in the field, and post-graduate organizational involvement. Students interested in residency, oncology career paths, or professional development found this event especially valuable. Additionally, ASOP welcomed Dr. Morelli from UPMC Hillman Cancer Center to discuss her role as an Investigational Drug Services (IDS) Pharmacist. She provided an overview of oncology research, clinical trials, and how pharmacists contribute to advancing cancer treatments.

We also held a Melanoma Awareness Tabling event in the Atrium, where students learned about the most common cancer in the U.S. and the importance of early detection and prevention. Finally, we hosted an Eboard Information Session on February 26 to discuss available leadership positions, responsibilities, and the application process.

March is packed with exciting events for ASOP! On March 10th, we had Dean's Theme event where we explored how OTC medications can help manage chemotherapy side effects through an interactive session. On March 12, we're collaborating with SIO for this month's Oncology Chats. We're also hosting several guest speakers this month. On March 17, a NCODA fellowship speaker will discuss postgraduate opportunities. On March 24, Dr. Alyssa Walton will speak on patient advocacy in oncology and palliative care. On March 26, Dr. Javier Grandos II will cover oncology research opportunities, and to close out the month, Dr. Shrina Duggal from UPMC Shadyside will share her journey as an oncology pharmacist on March 31.

Keep an eye on your emails for exact times and locations of upcoming events. As always, follow us on Instagram @asop_pittpharmacy to stay updated! We hope everyone had a restful spring break!



ISPOR: International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research

Author: Jolie Nguyen (P2) Secretary

ISPOR hopes everyone is staying warm during this second winter, as predicted by Punxsutawney Phil! Recently, we collaborated with AMCP to host a HEOR fellowship panel featuring Pitt Pharmacy's 4 current and incoming HEOR fellows: Cindy Chan, Caiden Lukan, Caroline Paley, and Steven Do. Our hosts—Tina Pham (P2, ISPOR President-Elect), Atreya Ghosh (P2, ISPOR Dean's Theme Rep), and Jolie Nguyen (P2, ISPOR Secretary & AMCP P&T Chair-Elect)—kicked off the session with questions about the fellows' experiences throughout pharmacy school and reasons why they chose Pitt Pharmacy for their fellowship.

Then, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions for the fellows, engaging in an interactive Q&A. Each speaker brought a unique background, representing different pharmacy schools across various states, with experiences spanning managed care, Evidence & Outcomes and Value & Access Strategy rotations, data science and health outcomes research, and clinical, patient-facing internships with no industry background. It was inspiring to see how students from different backgrounds can successfully pursue HEOR fellowships.

We are also elated to share that our ISPOR team, representing Pitt Pharmacy, has advanced to the National Finals in AMCP's 2025 P&T Competition! Out of 43 schools, we are among the top 5 teams eligible for Finals, marking the first time that Pitt has ever reached this round in 15 years. We are incredibly honored and grateful to have made it this far and look forward to competing on the big stage at AMCP's Annual Conference in Houston!



Pitt Chapter P&T Competition Local Winners and National Finalists! Left to right: Lydia Nguyen (P3), Atreya Ghosh (P2), Tina Pham (P2), Jolie Nguyen (P2)

ISPOR has another exciting event coming up in collaboration with AMCP and SASP—a Managed Care residency panel with Prime Therapeutics on Thursday, March 20, at 12:00 PM in 9109. Stay tuned for more details, and we hope to see you there!



Kappa Psi: Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Incorporated

Author: Cameron Tilson (P1) Corresponding Secretary

The Brothers of the Beta Kappa Chapter of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Inc., had a very busy month full of philanthropy, school spirit events, and Executive Board elections

Earlier in February, new Brothers were able to attend an E-Board fair to learn more about the plethora of leadership opportunities and ways to get involved in our chapter. After a successful night of elections, we am excited to announce our new Executive Board: Kayleigh Moyer (Regent), Ryan Cummings (Vice Regent), Cam Tilson (Corresponding Secretary), Likhitha Puttamraju (Recording Secretary), Gloria Shi (Treasurer), Caitlin Hogan (Chaplain), Lisa Jun (Historian), Evan Walker (Sergeant at Arms), Abby Lemp & Rachel Schrock (Chapter Liaisons), Josh Berkowitz & Jennifer Nguyen (MCEs), Dani Laverty (Fundraising Coordinator), Sarah Grabowski (Fellowship Coordinator), and Lexi Tamburri (Immediate Past Regent)! Congratulations everyone!

Our Chapter also had a very successful Kappa Psi Noodle Night from February 17-23 where we fundraised in partnership with Piada. With each purchase, 20% of the proceeds were donated back to our Chapter! We are extremely grateful for each person that came out to Piada and used our code with their purchase to contribute to our fundraiser.

Additionally, on February 25, our Chapter participated in the Pitt Day of Giving where alumni, students, family, and friends were able to donate to our Brother-in-Need fund. Together, we raised \$645! Thank you to all faculty, students, family, and friends that were able to donate to our fund.

Our Chapter is looking forward to the upcoming Mountain East Province Spring Assembly held in Baltimore, MD, at the end of March! We hope that everyone can see some sunlight and warmth this month, and we will see you next edition!



Congratulations to the new Kappa Psi E-Board!

PLS: Phi Lambda Sigma

Author: Elle Midey Secretary



The annual Phi Lambda Sigma charity auction took place on February 27 at the University Club. This event is the largest student-run philanthropy event at Pitt Pharmacy and all proceeds directly benefit the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program (GLPP).

Founded in 1995, GLPP provides pharmaceutical care to underserved, uninsured, and underinsured patients in the Greater Pittsburgh region. The annual PLS auction supports this important cause through a live auction, a silent auction, and an online fundraiser through Pitt Day of Giving. The live auction included events donated by student organizations and faculty, such as High Tea at the Frick, a Cookout at the Dean's House, and an Ice Skating Party. The silent auction items included items such as the Mr. Yuk Basket, the Quanto Basta cookbook, and a Garden Charcuterie basket. The online fundraiser portion was hosted through Pitt Day of Giving and promoted through social media and email campaigns.

The PLS auction is a much-anticipated event every year, as it brings students and faculty together for a night of fun and philanthropy. This year's auction was Secret Garden themed, and guests could be seen rocking floral outfits. The auction itself was preceded by a half-hour of hors d'oeuvres, so guests could eat and mingle prior to bidding.

While fundraising totals are yet to be finalized, the event was a great success thanks to the hard work of our hosts Emily Miller and Jaiden Mazefsky along with our Auction Committee, faculty advisors, and the many volunteers who dedicated their time to help decorate and run the event. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to seeing you next year!



Thank you Emily and Jaiden!



PPIP: Pittsburgh Pharmacy Investment Portfolio

Author: Jolie Nguyen (P2) Director of Communications

PPIP hopes everyone has been staying warm during these chilly weeks! February was a busy month for our organization, packed with 3 events!

We kicked off the month with a GBM on February 5, focusing on Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). The GBM began with a discussion of industry news, followed by an overview of PBMs, including their role, background, policies, criticisms, operations, and the complexities of rebates. Our members had an insightful conversation, sharing what they had learned on their own and in the classroom. We look forward to hosting more GBMs that explore different niches within pharmacy.

Later in the month, on February 24 from 5-7 PM, we hosted our Due Diligence event, where students analyzed pharmaceutical companies to assess their stock and learn about investing in healthcare. Participants evaluated companies based on their pipeline, competitors, leadership, and other factors. The event finished with brief presentations from each team about their respective companies.

On February 26, PPIP collaborated with SIO and AMCP for our Dean's Theme event, which explored the recall of Ranitidine and its broader implications. This event was coordinated by our P1 representative, Fatama Shareef, alongside Elsa Fura from SIO and Sora Hashimoto from AMCP. We're grateful for their efforts in organizing such an impactful discussion.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host our annual Consulting Competition on April 8—one of our most popular events! Participants will work in teams to evaluate whether to acquire a pharmaceutical company and present their strategic decisions. Pitt Pharmacy alumni working in consulting will be coming in person to guide students and judge! Plus, there will be food! Stay tuned for more details on timing and location.

PPIP appreciates everyone's enthusiasm and participation in our events, and we look forward to another great month ahead.



PPIP E-Board (Left to right): Lily Turner (P3, Lead Analyst), Jolie Nguyen (P2, Director of Communications), Jigar Dadarwala (P2, Business Development), Jessie Michel (P2, Business Development), Fatama Shareef (P1, P1 rep), John Zhou (P2, Vice President)

Rho Chi: Academic Honor Society in Pharmacy

Author: Alayne Gaghan (P3) Historian

Happy February! Rho Chi hopes your semester is off to a great start. As a reminder, Rho Chi is the academic honor society at Pitt Pharmacy. We focus on advancing pharmacy through sustained intellectual leadership. We are involved throughout the pharmacy school in many ways and are always trying to help out the classes below us!

February brought many exam reviews with the P1s and P2s to help them prepare for their upcoming exams. We held the first Infectious Diseases review on February 11 and the first GI/Nutrition review on February 13 for the P2s. The P1s first exam review was for Anatomy and Physiology II on February 14. The last P2 review for the month was held for the Nephrology course on February 18. We closed out the month with many reviews for the P1s with Principles of Drug Action being held on February 19, Patient Care being held on February 24, and Biochemistry II being held on February 26. We are grateful for the opportunity to help the other classes while they prepare for exams and hope these review sessions benefit their studying. Rho Chi is preparing for our annual Lab Coat Card sale and the blood drive for this semester. We are also excited to announce the annual Koch Lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, April 2.

We have plenty to look forward to throughout the rest of this semester including exam reviews, fundraisers, and talks at the Salvation Army. Be sure to follow us on Instagram @rhochi_alphaomicron to stay up to date on our upcoming events and fundraisers, as well as meet the e-board! We are so excited to continue to be intellectual leaders in the School of Pharmacy and assist the P1s and P2s in their pharmacy school journeys.



SCCP: Student College of Clinical Pharmacy

Author: Emily Miller (P3) Secretary

The Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP) has been active this semester, kicking things off with a successful white coat pin sale. Arriving shortly after the P1 White Coat Ceremony, we sold cute and professional pins, which were well received by the new students as a way to personalize their coats! This event not only helped raise funds for SCCP but also fostered a sense of camaraderie among students as they stepped into their professional journey.

In addition to fundraising, SCCP has been busy with academic and leadership initiatives. Elections for the upcoming executive board were due at the end of February, ensuring the club continues to grow under new leadership. Positions will begin to be filled soon and we are excited to welcome the new Eboard!

On February 27, Matt Chin and Jessi Pizzullo led a journal club discussion on two critical clinical topics: heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and ventilator-associated pneumonia. This session provided students with valuable insights and discussion opportunities to prepare for clinical rotations and future patient care. As the semester progresses, SCCP looks forward to more engaging events that enhance student pharmacists' clinical knowledge and professional development.

Keep an eye out for more from SCCP soon!



SIO: Student Industry Organization

Author: Lily Turner (P3) Vice President of Communications

Hello student pharmacists, faculty, and staff! The Student Industry Organization had a great February!

On February 17 at 12 PM and 5 PM, we held our annual SIO Symposium pre-meeting. Students were able to prepare for Symposium by learning about the agenda, the alumni who will attend, and proper networking etiquette. Later that week on February 21 at 5 PM, the SIO Symposium was kicked off in Salk Hall. Alumni and students made introductions and enjoyed a nice evening. The next day on February 22 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM at the University Club, alumni and students engaged in a full day of roundtables, keynote speakers, a fellowship panel, and more!



Symposium allows for students to gain valuable insights into a variety of career paths and meet Pitt Pharmacy alumni. We are beyond thankful to all the alumni who joined us!

Lastly, on February 26 at 12 PM, we hosted our annual Dean's Theme Event focused on OTC Medication Safety. In collaboration with AMCP and PPIP, we hosted a discussion about the recall of ranitidine (Zantac®) and its implications on post-marketing surveillance and pharmacovigilance. This event provided information about the importance of effective communication between pharmaceutical companies and community pharmacies in order to optimize pharmacovigilance and reduce the incidence of adverse event non-reporting. February was an exciting month for SIO.

Look out for communications in March about E-board applications if you would like to get more involved! If anyone has any questions or ideas, please feel free to reach out at studentindustryorg@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @pittsio!