Pitt Capsule

2021 MARCH EDITION

Racism and Vaccination: A Comparison Between Pandemics

Roshni Pattabiraman (P3) & Aarti Zaver (P3), Diversity and Inclusion

As systemic racism is slowly being recognized as a major factor that impacts the healthcare of racial and ethnic minorities, more research has been conducted to assess the consequences of this social issue. With this newfound increased awareness of racial disparities, it is reasonable to expect that the vaccine rollout for COVID-19 would show improvements from the last pandemic, H1N1, which occurred from 2009 to 2010. Both H1N1 and COVID-19 have been declared as global pandemics and began vaccine distribution within one year of the pandemic's start. Therefore, a direct comparison between the vaccination efforts of the two pandemics can be made to evaluate if there has been an improvement in the institutionalized racism that often leads people of color to worse health outcomes. After evaluating the data from the pandemics, it is evident that there are significant disparities faced by minorities in terms of vaccine rollout.

With H1N1, efforts were made for the single-dose vaccine to be offered to a wide variety of patients and especially those that have historically received the least health care. Efforts included advertising in multiple languages, engagement of faith-based organizations, having alternative vaccination sites, and offering the vaccine at no charge. Despite these direct interventions, data shows that vaccination rates for people of color were still significantly lower than that of White populations; this is linked to a legacy of distrust and historic mistreatment of ethnic groups that discourage these communities from trusting the vaccine. By the end of the H1N1 pandemic, only 17.8% of Black people were vaccinated, while 23.5% of White people were vaccinated; when considering the disproportionate impact that this pandemic had on people of color, these numbers show a clear racial disparity.

With the current COVID-19 vaccine rollout, ethnic discrepancies have also been noted, as is evident from data reported by 17 states that pledged their transparency. Black and Hispanic communities have been vastly impacted due to their occupations (essential/frontline), decreased ability to social distance, lower health literacy, and pre-existing barriers to accessing care. For example, in Nebraska, Hispanic people make up nearly 25% of COVID-19 cases but only 4% of those vaccinated. In contrast, White people in North Carolina make up 65% of cases and yet are more than 80% of those vaccinated. There is a clear vaccination pattern that shows a glaring gap between races when looking at those impacted most by the virus and those receiving the vaccine.

Despite improvements in racial awareness, the data shows parallels of disparities between these two pandemics even though they occurred a decade apart, and it indicates that appropriate distribution of the vaccine has not yet been achieved. Despite initiatives taken in both pandemics, communities of color have significantly lower vaccination rates despite being more impacted by the viruses due to a variety of complex factors; to overcome this, steps must be taken including wide distribution of information about the vaccine in multiple languages, clear communication to overcome health literacy barriers, and most importantly continual transparency by states. By targeting community-wide distrust and making adjustments based on statistics retrieved from reported data, fair and equal distribution of this vaccine can be achieved.



ASCP: American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

Danielle DiGiorgio (P3), Secretary

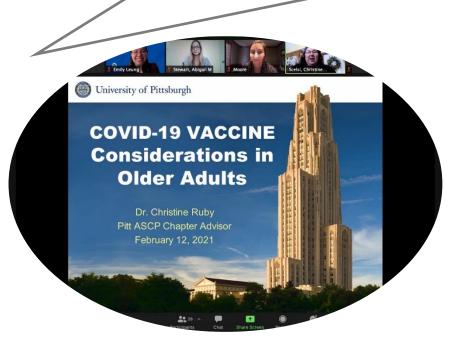
February was an action packed month for ASCP. Our valentine drive was a success and we were excited to be able to spread a little love in the form of handwritten valentines to the 120 residents of Manor Care Shadyside.

Another great event from this month was the virtual Immunization Speaker Panel. During the event, Dr. Ruby and Dr. Moore discussed all things COVID-19 vaccine from mRNA vaccine technology to how to administer it with other scheduled vaccines. Participants were able to engage with a patient case and ask our knowledgeable speakers their burning questions to better equip them to educate others in the community. This event was a huge success and provided a highly relevant learning opportunity for students.

The second GBM of the semester was held on February 18 via zoom. We discussed upcoming events such as the fidget blanket drive as well as our collaboration event with CPNP. We were really excited that over 40 people signed up to make fidget blankets that will help local older adults with Alzheimer's and dementia combat their anxiety and agitation. Fidget blanket grab bags were disseminated at Salk Hall on February 23 and 24 by Madi Everingham and Grace Havens. Stay tuned for more information on fidget blanket collection later in the semester!

While February has been a great month for ASCP, you don't want to miss what is coming up next, such as our collaboration event with CPNP. On March 31 at 12 PM via zoom, Dr. Matt Joseph will be coming to speak to students about psychiatric pharmacy. Dr. Joseph is the PGY1 Residency Director and a Geriatric Psychiatric pharmacist at UPMC Western Psychiatric Institute. Not only is Dr. Joseph an excellent speaker, but this event is also PrimeRx approved!

ASCP is looking forward to many upcoming events and opportunities for students to engage and make a difference in our local community. Reach out with any questions/concerns at pittascp@gmail.com, we love to hear from you! Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (ASCP-Pitt Student Pharmacists) and Instagram (@ASCP Pitt) for ASCP updates!





LKS: Lambda Kappa Sigma

Grace Havens (P2), Corresponding Secretary

Hello everyone! It's crazy to think we are already halfway through the semester - time is really flying by! The lovely sisters of LKS have been quite busy over the past few weeks, with organizing fundraising events, completing volunteer activities and helping vaccinate the public with the COVID-19 vaccines! We are so proud of all our sisters' efforts.

We had a few service events over the past month that our sisters took part in. For Valentine's Day, we were able to send valentines to kids at St. Jude's Hospital. We are also participating in ASCP's fidget blanket making event, where we are making small blankets for older adults who have Alzheimer's or dementia and may be dealing with anxiety. We held our annual White Coat Sale in February as well, so make sure you look out for the pickup dates if you ordered one.

Our amazing social chairs put together a Galentine's Day Zoom Trivia Night which was so fun! We cannot wait to see what other fun events they have in store for us this semester. Our Dr. Salk Hall chairs are in the process of planning a new virtual event, so stay tuned for information on that.

Have a great second half to the semester everyone! As always, you can stay up-to-date with the lovely ladies of LKS by following our instagram: @lks_delta_chapter.

PDC: Phi Delta Chi

Tsriztan Oliver (P₃), Worthy Keeper of Records and Seals

It is a well-known fact that February is the shortest month on the calendar. The brothers of PDC determined this to be an alternative fact based on their ability to pack February with as much action as any other month! From vaccinating clinics to socializing, PDC made it a month to remember. Let's leap right into it.

To start off the month, we had a handful of our brothers participate in some COVID vaccination clinics as advocates of our profession. The pandemic has been a learning curve for all of us and Mu chapter wanted to play a part in helping out our community. PDC wants to continue volunteering in the community and is always looking for opportunities to help in any way that we can.

Next up on the agenda, our brothers spent a lot of time this past month trying to take a break from all of the midterm madness by meeting up for some leisure activities. With more opportunities to socially distance outside, our brothers took every opportunity that we could. Whether it was snowboarding out in Seven Springs or going for a golf outing, the brothers of PDC continued to strengthen our bond, making sure to follow all of the appropriate COVID-safe regulations.

We rounded up our month with some elections for the worthy board and chair positions. We're looking forward to seeing what our new executive board will do with the fraternity and how we can continue the traditions of PDC. As always, we are striving to advance the science of pharmacy and its allied interests.

I would like to thank you for reading about what Phi Delta Chi has been up to, and I promise that we have some exciting things in store for the future!

APhA-ASP: American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists Abby Reigh (P₃), Membership Vice President

February has been a busy month, and we are excited to share everything Pitt APhA-ASP has accomplished! Notably, we held E-board elections this month. Thank you to all students who ran for positions and congratulations to our new E-board:

President: Jules Lee

President-Elect: Sammie Frieter

Patient Care VP: Jocelyn Edwards

Patient Care VP-Elect: Abby Perriello

Communications VP: Elizabeth Donnelly

Communications VP-Elect: Caroline McKenna

Membership VP: Maya Tsvetkova

Membership VP-Elect: Julia Gleason

Finance VP: Angie Bella

Finance VP-Elect: Kathryn Makay

Policy VP: Sami Hohmann

Policy VP-Elect: Joseph Chen

Interprofessional VP: Kendyl Sing

Interprofessional VP-Elect: Abby Stewart

International VP: Jaccie Hisashima

International VP-Elect: Dini Lin



We held the Annual APhA OTC Medicine Safety Over the Counter Medication Counseling Competition a couple weeks ago. The top three winners were P2s: Jules Lee, Elizabeth Donnelly, and Nicole Pavasko. APhA also held the Local Patient Counseling Competition. Please congratulate the winner, Deanna Schnitzer (P3), on her excellent counseling skills.

As always, our Patient Care Operations are hard at work. Thank you to all who participated in Operation Heart's Heart Month Step Challenge. OTC Medicine Safety, Operation Diabetes, and Operation Immunization have several events and student volunteer opportunities coming up, so be on the lookout for those! Finally, the Tucci Lecture will be held April 14th at 5 pm.

CPNP: College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists

Casey Gudenburr (P3), Secretary/Membership

This month, CPNP has been very active with hosting events! We have collaborated on two different MOUD events with APhA Generation Rx and SCCP. The first event functioned as a Q&A session led by Dr. Pruskowski, whereas the second was a presentation-style event given by Dr. Reid. Both of these sessions were extremely informative, especially considering the state of the current opioid epidemic. Another event CPNP hosted was in collaboration with APhA Women's Health. This event, centered around understanding domestic violence, was led by Janice Goldsborough.

February was also an important month for CPNP, as executive board elections were held. The new executive board is as follows: President: Emma Stragand, P2; President-Elect: Madison Kornides, P1; Secretary: Zoe Ricketts, P2; Treasurer: Jamie Kim, P2; Research Chair: Cassandra Morales, P2; Education and Training: Katlyn Goertler, P2; Community Outreach: Phil Matthew, P2; and Wellness Co-Chairs: Alyssa Mekel, P1 & Ruth Li, P1. We are so excited for our executive board members, and we cannot wait to see all that they accomplish.

Some of our upcoming events this semester include a Career Round Tables event with psychiatric pharmacists on March 10, a collaborative event with ASCP centered around Dementia on March 31, and an Autism Speaks event on April 7. A social media initiative will take place on March 1 for National Self-Harm Awareness Day, and another Pitt Day of Mental Health on March 24.

Rho Chi: Academic Honor Society in Pharmacy

Gianna Emmett (P3), Historian

Spring is right around the corner and the sunshine, as well as Rho Chi's upcoming events, give us much to look forward to. Rho Chi is excited to invite 23 students from the Class of 2023 into our chapter! These student pharmacists will be officially inducted during a virtual ceremony on April 15, 2021. Congratulations to these students for their achievements!

We want to thank everyone who attended the Healthcare Improv Workshop with Dr. Cory Jenks in February! Dr. Jenks is a licensed pharmacist who uses his skills as an improv comedian to bring a new perspective to healthcare and communication. We hope you had as much fun learning and laughing as we did! During the month of March, Rho Chi will be holding its annual pocket lab card sale. Each set has 10 double-sided lab cards containing helpful reference information such as normal lab values, diabetes guidelines and treatments, common interactions, and more. These cards are perfectly sized to fit in your white coat pocket and are a useful tool for both IPPE and APPE rotations. Rho Chi will also be selling personalized business cards, which are a great way to professionally distribute your contact information throughout the realm of healthcare.

Rho Chi will continue to hold its ARC Talks via Zoom for the members of the Adult Rehab Center in Southside. The next talks will be held on March 8 with a focus on high cholesterol and on April 12 with a focus on sleep health. You do not have to be a member of Rho Chi to participate in these talks, so if you are interested feel free to reach out. Thank you to the students who have participated so far! The tutoring chairs of Rho Chi held a P1 review and a GI exam review for the P2s within the month of February. Keep an eye out on the Rho Chi Facebook page for updates and announcements regarding future sessions!

Looking ahead to April, we will be holding our annual Tucci-Koch lecture in partnership with APhA! Be on the lookout for more information regarding this event within the next few weeks. As always, our Facebook page is a great place to visit for updates and information; you can also feel free to reach out to any member of Rho Chi with questions as well.

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Kappa Psi: Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity, Incorporated

Erika Thomas (P₃), Corresponding Secretary

Kappa Psi, Beta Kappa Chapter continues to have many successes as the semester marches on. In February, we were able to complete a food drive for CHS Food Pantry, collecting hundreds of pounds of food from our Brothers. We are grateful to be in a position to donate to such a worthy cause. We also held a successful Among Us night at which some of our graduate Brothers were able to attend. Beta Kappa also hosted a Diversity and Inclusion Lunch Hour event featuring Dean Mario Browne that garnered over 100 participants on February 11. Finally, several members deserve recognition for their accomplishments within and outside of the fraternity.

Congratulations to Erika Thomas (P3) and Emily Leung (P1) for coming in 2nd and 3rd place, respectfully, in a regional Kappa Psi trivia night, to Amanda Cremeans (P3) for winning a scholarship through the Allegheny County Pharmacists Association, to Joseph Rizkalla (P4) and Erika Thomas (P3) for representing Pitt at the PPA OTC Competition, to Amanda Cremeans (P3), Steven Astrachan (P3), Izzy Zerfas (P3), and Erika Thomas (P3) for being the newly selected Panther Clinic leaders for the upcoming year, and to all of our other Brothers accomplishing great things. Additionally, on March 4, we held our annual chapter elections for the executive board. Congratulations to the following Brothers:

Regent: Ilane Saad (P2)

Vice Regent: Elizabeth Donnelly (P2)

Corresponding Secretary: Erika Thomas (P3)

Recording Secretary: Alana Chen (P1)

Treasurer: Feiran Liang (P2) Chaplain: Maggie Schmidt (P2)

Historian: Ruth Li (P1)

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jack Corey (P2) GCDs: Lucas Berenbrok, Karen Hoang,

and Iris Tang

Chapter Liaisons: Caroline McKenna (P1)

and Amanda Chiaravalle (P1)

Pledge Mentors: Tina Zhang (P1) and

Andrew William (P2)

In March, we will be transitioning to our new executive board, and our current executive board wishes all of newly elected Brothers luck and success in their new positions. We will also continue to provide philanthropy opportunities with an Oakland street cleanup on March 20 with the Oakland Planning and Development Committee and with working with local school districts to help meet their needs with school supplies and teacher encouragement throughout the month and into April. We will also have some sort of social event, and we will be preparing for our regional meeting held virtually in April. We are excited to continue to develop fraternal bonds and serve our local community!

Second-year brother Maya Tsvetkova dropping off food drive donations



PLS: Phi Lambda Sigma Alina Liang (P₃), Secretary

February was an exciting month for PLS! We welcomed 14 new members to our organization and are amazed by their outstanding leadership qualities, diverse experiences, and networking skills. Thank you to all who applied to be a member of Phi Lambda Sigma. We had an incredible number of applicants this year, and with that being said, if you were not chosen and would like to go over your application, please reach out to Yihan Li or Alexander Aubin. The formal PLS and Rho Chi induction ceremony is scheduled for April 15 at 7 PM. Stay tuned for more details to come in the following weeks!

On March 1, PLS and SNPhA hosted a Thriving Through Adversity workshop with Dr. Adam Martin. Students had the opportunity to learn how to leverage difficult times to build upon personal and professional skills. Dr. Martin shared ways he has turned adversity into opportunity, and how these experiences have ultimately enriched his life.

Additionally, we are continuing to fundraise for the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program (GLPP). For anyone interested in supporting this cause and positively impacting underserved care, please visit our donation page at: https://engage.pitt.edu/project/24508. You can view the PITT Engage video, our updates and the donation page all at this link. Thank you to everyone who supported GLPP in the apparel fundraiser and to everyone who continues to donate - we couldn't have done this without all of your support, and we appreciate every bit of it!

Looking ahead, our March GBM is scheduled for March 23 at 12 PM. The National Executive Director of PLS, Dr. Brandon Jennings, will be joining us. PLS has many exciting events planned for the coming months, so stayed tuned for updates in the coming weeks!



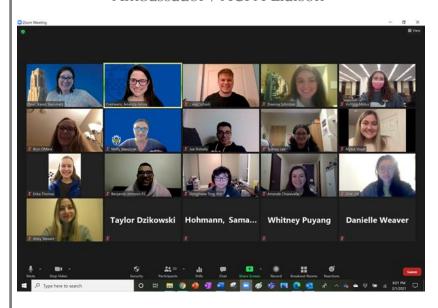


This month PPA was able to host an OTC Competition in preparation for the Mid-Year conference in February. From this competition we selected 3 finalists - Joe Rizkalla (P4), Caleb Schork (P2), and Erika Thomas (P3) - to represent Pitt Pharmacy at PPA Mid-Year. We are thrilled to report that Erika was able to lead the team as captain to their second-place finish \$200 behind Duquesne's Team. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

We would also like to congratulate the following students who presented posters at the Mid-Year conference: Julianne Mercer, Julianne Gleason, Erin Wasylson, Bryn O'Mara, Alyssa Vogel, WeiWei Lin, James Matis, Catherine Dziuba, Kobi Griffith, Madeline Mitchell, Nauka Bhalodia, Yeeun Yoon, and Hannah Madara.

PPA: Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

Molly Marciniak (P2), Communications Ambassador / ACPA Liaison



SCCP: Student College of Clinical Pharmacy

Lisa Cahill (P₃), Secretary



The Student Clinical College of Pharmacy (SCCP) held the annual Inhaler Devices Training on February 24 via Zoom. Students were able to join breakout rooms and learn about the different types of inhalers, proper use, and key counseling points for each. Thank you to everyone who joined and the presenters for leading the event! Elections for SCCP's executive board are underway, and the elected students will be announced soon. There are still opportunities available to host a journal club this semester. Journal club involves presenting a research article of your choice to your peers and is a great way to practice these skills in preparation for seminar P3 year. Reach out to Noah Donnenberg (nsd15@pitt.edu) if you are interested in leading one.

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to reach out to us!

Contact information:

pitt.accp.eboard@gmail.com facebook.com/universityofpittsburghsccp instagram.com/pittsccp

SIO: Student Industry Organization

Jules Lee (P2), Vice President of Communications

We first want to thank everyone who came out to our 2021 Symposium - it was a great success! Through speaker events and networking sessions facilitated through breakout rooms, SIO was able to make the virtual symposium into an interactive and meaningful event. We hope the students were able to learn about vast career paths that PharmD's and PhD's can take in pharmaceutical industry. We hope that everyone enjoyed the symposium as much as we did. Our speakers were so excited to come talk with us and by the great questions and engagement they received. We do have all of their contact information so if you want to reach out to anyone, please let us know and we will happily connect you!

Soon after, we had our joint event with PPIP to welcome Dr. Potter. Dr Potter is a PittPharmacy graduate whose current role encompasses strategy consulting, finance, and business development. He brought such a unique perspective on how to use a PharmD background to find a fulfilling career outside of the conventional clinical and community route. We also had our Dean's Theme Event with SCCP on March 3 from 6-7 PM. This collaboration event hosted Dr. Gregg Sylvester, a Chief Medical Officer and Head of Medical Affairs at Segirus, and he discussed the challenges of developing and launching a vaccine from an industry and public health perspective. This event was PrimeRX approved for professionalism - and we hope that everyone who attended gained some valuable insights!

In addition to the SIO X SCCP event, we also have our executive board elections and transitioning period, so stay tuned for some new faces leading SIO. You can find more information about any of our events on our Facebook page "Student Industry Organization" by searching @SIOpitt and on our Instagram @SIOpitt. Feel free to send us an email at studentindustryorg@gmail.com if you have any questions or ideas.

SCCP: Student Society of Cannabis Pharmacists

Ryan Sitko (P3), Patient Care Committee Leader

Recently, our organization held the first event of a 2-part series about Racism in Cannabis. Members Lex Casanova and Sydney Lee delved into the history of how cannabis has been weaponized as a means of targeting minority populations. It was a very informative talk about the origins of the term "marijuana" in journalism, the legislative policies that were implemented and how they impacted people of color, and finally about how our current laws are still affecting minority communities. Part 2 of our Racism in Cannabis series was scheduled for March 3 at 12 PM and it featured representatives from Cresco Labs and their Social Equity and Educational Development (SEED) program.

Our project for Operation Immunization is well underway. In an effort to promote vaccine awareness and usage, we are reaching out to dispensaries throughout the state and requesting that they include questions about vaccines on their patient intake forms. Patient Care Committee member, Sydney Lee, also put together educational material to distribute to dispensaries for them to hand out to patients. Since every member of PA's Medical Marijuana Program fills out a patient intake form, our project has the potential to impact thousands of patients.

Elections for next semester will be taking place on Thursday, March 11 at 12 PM. Members interested in a position should declare the positions they wish to run for and submit their speeches by Tuesday, March 9. There are several E-board and non-E-board positions to run for, and these provide great leadership opportunities for all three classes.

February was a busy month for SSHP! We kicked off the month with our February GBM where we discussed executive board positions available for the upcoming school year and how members can be more involved. On March 9 at 12 PM, we will be hosting our elections and nominating members for the next SSHP E-board - join us at this exciting GBM!

From February 22 - 26, SSHP held our annual Practice Advancement Initiative (PAI) Week. This week is dedicated to empowering pharmacists and encouraging the progressive movement in pharmacy practice! There are 5 pillars of PAI (patient-centered care, pharmacy technician role/education/training, pharmacist role/education/training, leadership in medication use and safety, and technology and data science), each which represents a unique theme to focus and build on, to achieve advancement in our professions! Throughout our PAI week, we had a day dedicated to focusing on each pillar and really reflecting on how we, as student pharmacists, can create actionable goals and advance our profession. This year we held virtual events over Zoom, featuring an event with Dr. Erin McCreary who discussed COVID-19 strategies and updates through the perspective of an Infectious Disease pharmacist. Additionally, SSHP discussed expanding the role of a pharmacy technician during a discussion event with the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). Students learned how the role of the pharmacy technician is evolving and ways we, as future pharmacists, can effectively collaborate!

There are many exciting events SSHP has in store for the month of March. Please join us at our March GBM on March 9 at 12 P

SASP: Student Association of Specialty Pharmacy

Victoria Miklus (p3), Secretary

SSHP: Student Society of Health System Pharmacists

Alina Liang (P₃), Internal Career Development Chair

Happy March everyone - it's hard to believe we are almost half way through the semester! Last month SASP held our monthly GBM which focused on this year's Dean's Theme: Operation Immunization. P2 Jane Miller walked us through how contagious disease spreads through a population of people, what herd immunity is, the importance of vaccinations and how pharmacists play an important role in the immunization process.

SASP kicked off this month with our guest speaker Dr. Nick Calla who is a University of Pittsburgh alumni and currently serves as the Senior Vice President (SVP) of Industry Relations at Orsini Specialty Pharmacy. Orsini Specialty Pharmacy is a leading independent specialty pharmacy located near Chicago, Illinois and focuses on providing comprehensive and compassionate care to patients with chronic and rare diseases. Dr. Calla provided insight about Orsini Specialty Pharmacy, his career path and his responsibilities as the SVP of Industry Relations. In addition, students were able to receive insight about his role as a board member and executive committee for the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP).

Lastly, we will be holding elections later on in the semester and there are opportunities to run for various positions, including vice president, secretary, treasurer, professional development chair and social media chair. Be on the lookout for an announcement about the date and time of elections! If you are interested in running for a position, feel free to reach out to anyone on the current executive board or email pittsasp@gmail.com. Stay up to date on future meetings and events by following our Instagram page (@pittsasp) and like us on Facebook (@PittSASP)!

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Here at Pitt Pharmacy we have a lot of organizations, and sometimes there are no new updates for the Pitt Capsule. In an effort to feature all organizations, here are the ones that did not have any updates this month:

AMCP: Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy

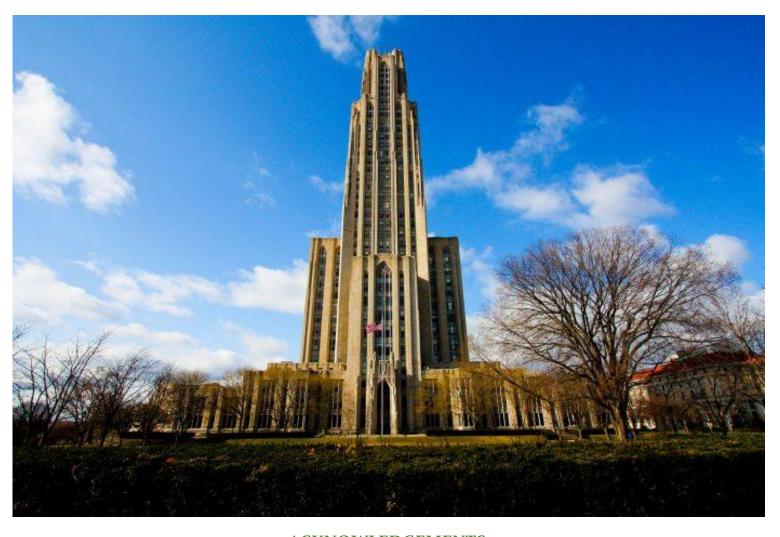
CPFI: Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International

ISPOR: International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research

PPIP: Pittsburgh Pharmacy Investment Portfolio

SNPhA: Student National Pharmaceutical Association

We are so excited to be able to showcase the accomplishments and events of all our organizations in the School of Pharmacy! If anyone would like to reach out about writing an article for the next edition of the Pitt Capsule, please email either Hyunwoo Kim (HYK46@pitt.edu) or Elizabeth Donnelly (EAD85@pitt.edu) for more information.



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