Student Organization Round-Up

Chicago College of Pharmacy (CCP) students have plenty of opportunities to explore career choices, build their networks, and have a great time in the process through the numerous pharmacy-oriented student organizations available at Midwestern University. Here are just a few recent events put on by some of these organizations.

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)

*Professional Meet and Greet Dinner*

This round robin Q & A dinner was held on campus for AMCP members on October 18, 2012, and featured a number of pharmacists from various backgrounds. Each visiting pharmacist was seated at one round table surrounded by a number of students. Every 15 minutes, the students moved on to the next table until all the students had a chance to meet with all the visiting pharmacists. Dinner was served 30 minutes prior to the round table sessions.

The purpose of the Meet & Greet Dinner was to introduce student pharmacists to various pharmacy careers with an emphasis on managed care pharmacy, as well as provide an opportunity for students to network with professionals and expand their connections.

“This year, we hosted pharmacists from community, hospital managed care, institution, and residency settings, as well as the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),” said Jake Chuang, a third-year pharmacy student (also known as PS-III) and President of the MWU student chapter of AMCP. “We plan on hosting this event annually and providing opportunities for 20 to 30 students each year. Students who participated in this year’s dinner event were very pleased with the quality and quantity of the insights they received.”

CCP Student Council

*Midwestern University Health Fair*

Hosted by the CCP Student Council, the annual Midwestern University Health Fair is a community event open to the public. The event offers the opportunity for all MWU student organizations from every college to create information booths on many different health topics. This gives the participating students the opportunity to counsel, answer questions, and educate fair attendees. In addition, free flu shots, cholesterol screenings, eye exams, blood glucose readings, and blood pressure readings were available to attendees.

This year’s Health Fair took place on September 29, 2012, on campus at the Wellness Center and Gym. “We had approximately 200 people attend, including Mayor

Continued on next page
Student Organization Round-Up cont’d

Martin Tully of Downers Grove, who is a big supporter of ours,” commented Leo Leung, PS-III student and President of the CCP Student Council. “We were so successful that we used nearly all of our supplies for our immunizations and screenings, and we have already started planning next year’s health fair in order to maximize our impact on the community.”

Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHP)

ICHP’s Clinical Skills Competition

This annual competition is open to all pharmacy students. They form their own teams of two and tackle a patient case where they develop a written care plan. The top five teams then present their case in front of a panel of judges. The final winning team from the written and oral portion of the competition go on to compete at the national level at the annual American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting.

Held on October 18, 2012, in Alumni Hall on campus, this year’s competition was a big success with 27 teams competing. This event is an interactive experience that is meant to help with students’ professional development.

“This competition is a wonderful way to utilize the knowledge and skills gained through the pharmacotherapeutics courses,” explained Ayumi Oda, PS-III student and President of the Midwestern University student chapter of ICHP. “It also allows participants to think critically and work as a team. Many of our past winners are those who have participated starting their first year (and win as third or fourth year students), so we highly encourage pharmacy students to challenge themselves early on and see what this competition is all about. It’s fun, and it’s a valuable learning experience!”

Phi Delta Chi

Give Thanks Walk

A co-ed professional pharmacy fraternity, Phi Delta Chi supports St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Every year fraternity members raise money and walk together in the Give Thanks Walk in Lombard. They seek donations from family, friends, and classmates to support cancer treatments for children. Last year, the Midwestern University chapter alone raised $1,000, and nationally, Phi Delta Chi donated more than $200,000. As a result, the outpatient pharmacy at St. Jude is named after this organization. Their national goal is to raise $1 million by 2020.

“As a co-ed professional pharmacy fraternity, we are involved in a variety of different events that appeal to all of our members’ interests,” adds Darya Kupershteyn, PS-III student and President of the Midwestern University chapter of Phi Delta Chi. “We have our St. Jude Give Thanks Walk, a professional event each quarter where we inform all Midwestern University students about a new drug on the market, and our big social event—a formal boat cruise.”

What is a fraternity without a social event? Each spring, the members of Phi Delta Chi enjoy getting together and socializing with dinner, dancing, and a view of Chicago’s spectacular lakefront on a boat cruise. Last year, nearly all of their active members, as well as some alumni, attended this fun event.

Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)

World AIDS Day

In order to raise awareness and provide education to the community and customers of Walgreens about AIDS/HIV, members of SNPhA volunteered at Walgreens HIV Centers of Excellence stores (stores specially certified and trained in HIV/AIDS). They handed out brochures that explain how the testing process works, spoke with customers about treatment options, as well as how to manage the condition. They also made red ribbons and gave them to customers to help spread awareness. Finally, they had a list of locations that offered HIV testing in the surrounding area.

“This event was a nationwide event that was open only to SNPhA members. It happened on World AIDS Day, which was Saturday, December 1,” explained Ellen Cho, PS-III student and President of the Midwestern University chapter of SNPhA. “Our particular chapter helped at three different Walgreens stores in the Chicago area. At two of these, we worked with members of the SNPhA chapter of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Overall, we were able to interact with about 200 customers.”

Phi Delta Chi members take some time away from enjoying the views of the city skyline from the waters of Lake Michigan to have a great time on the dance floor at their annual spring formal.

Celestina Pak, PS-II student, and President-elect of SNPhA, pins a red ribbon on a Walgreen’s customer in recognition of World AIDS Day.
Preparation for CCP Students for Residencies

Pharmacy residencies are optional competitive one- to two-year intensive postgraduate training programs, which provide training in extensive patient-centered care and research. Pharmacy students are often interested in learning more about how to prepare for residencies. CCP offers several ways for students to be competitive in landing a residency position.

To gain a good understanding about residencies, students may take the one-credit-hour elective course, “Postgraduate Training Opportunities for Pharmacists.” Here, students evaluate the needs for postgraduate education for specific careers in pharmacy, learn appropriate steps to secure a pharmacy residency, and review the basic expectations of different residency programs.

In addition, just before the season of residency interviews begins, the College offers fourth-year students the opportunity to participate in mock interview sessions, which are informally evaluated by faculty members, as well as the College’s current residents. Students hone their skills with at least two “interviewers,” and receive immediate verbal feedback.

There are many other opportunities for students to become familiar with pharmacy residency programs. These include talking with residency program directors at CCP’s CAREERxPO, as well as speaking with outside experts at various pharmacy student organizations’ special career development events.

Placement data for Chicago College of Pharmacy students seeking postgraduate residency opportunities is promising. In 2012, 68 CCP students or graduates participated in the national match for postgraduate year one (PGY1) residencies, and of those, 43 were successfully matched to a PGY1 residency program. This 63.2% match rate exceeds the national average of 61.2%.

A Student’s Perspective: Second Quarter of Pharmacy School

By Lisa Tran, PS-I Student

My first quarter of pharmacy school has now come and gone. What a whirlwind it has been! There were lots of studying, because there were many subjects. The classes that began the foundation of my pharmacy education were Physiology, Biochemistry, Healthcare Systems, Pharmaceutical Calculations, Introduction to Pharmacy Practice, Interdisciplinary Core, and Reflective Portfolio. It was a total of ten weeks of classes and then a week of exams. We started 2013 halfway through the winter quarter – I am already more than halfway through my PS-I year!

Over the holidays, I applied for summer internships. There are many choices. I am most interested in a few super competitive positions, but most are reasonably within my reach; it’s a good mix of community, hospital, and industry. Because I’m undecided on which practice setting I prefer, I am confident that I will learn a lot this summer that I can apply towards my future pharmacy career.

I am really enjoying the advisor lunches; every student is assigned into a group with a faculty advisor and meets with him or her a few times per quarter. There are meetings for the reflective portfolio course to shape our professional views. There are also relaxed meetings during lunch hour. It’s a great opportunity to ask questions about classes, residencies, etc. For instance, someone brought up having business cards: good idea or bad idea? I hadn’t even considered it until then. It’s a great idea, by the way.

Another excellent learning venue has been my IPPE rotation. Chicago College of Pharmacy students begin their experiential education in winter quarter. I absolutely love being immersed in my community retail pharmacy. I ask all kinds of questions: about patient counseling, about the workflow, and how the pharmacy is managed. Now, I truly understand the roles of the pharmacist and their team.

This has been a wonderful start to my pharmacy education. I am excited for this upcoming summer and what my future career opportunities will be!

Pharmacy Student Organizations at Midwestern University

Midwestern University offers a number of ways for students to get involved on campus, reach out to the community, and develop leadership skills. In addition, there are organizations made up of students from all colleges at the University.

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Strong CCP Student Representation at the 2012 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

Each year in early December, many CCP faculty and administration attend the annual American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Clinical Midyear Meeting to network with fellow professionals, share research and best practices, and learn of the latest advances in clinical pharmaceutical care. This year, a number of CCP student research posters were accepted for display, and they are listed below. (CCP students are noted in bold; CCP faculty, residents and fellow are noted in italics.)

Advincula, Renee; McLaughlin, Milena; Malczynski, Michael; Qi, Chao; Scheetz, Marc – “Assessing the clinical virulence of KPC (+) Klebsiella pneumoniae blood stream infections at a large tertiary academic hospital.”

Ammar, Abeer; McLaughlin, Milena; Scarsi, Kim; Gerzenshtein, Lana – “Proposed nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor dosing during continuous veno-venous hemofiltration.”

Aranda, Josephine; Flis, Weronika; LeWan, Ryan; Khan, Aamina; Brake, Helga; Gleason, Kristine – “Medication Reconciliation: The Single Source of Truth.”

Barone, Daniel; Mui, Sheron; Nath, Archana; Nevekar, Sonia; Kleithermes, Stephanie; Sincak, Carrie; Wang, Sheila – “Identification of Clinical Predictors of Elevated Creatinine Phosphokinase during Daptomycin Use: a matched case-control study.”

Bierman, Jacob; Ralph, Rachel; Greenberg, Allyson; Postelnick, Michael; Kotis, Desi – “Northwestern Memorial Hospital: A Multi-School Rotation Site.”

Carpenter, Jennifer; et al. – “Review of a Vancomycin Dosing Protocol in Obese Patients.”

Choi, Christina; Reutzel, Thomas; Quinones-Boex, Ana; Wang, Sheila – “Preparing for advanced practice pharmacy experiences (APPEs) and beyond: the utility of an infectious diseases elective course and student clinical performance.”

Fajiculay, Jay; Campigotto, Mark; Park, Gabriel; Joshi, Medha; Gilchrist, Annette – “Differential effects of bortezomib on osteoblastic and osteosarcoma cell lines suggest resistance may be through anti-apoptotic Akt pathway.”

Flis, Weronika; Ralph, Rachel; Fotis, Michael; Budris, William; Greenberger, Paul – “Indications and outcomes of epinephrine auto-injector use at a major urban hospital.”

Fowler, Mallory; Chang, Jae; Patel, Jean; Postelnick, Michael – “Adherence to empiric guidelines for the treatment of community acquired pneumonia in a hospital setting.”

Greenberg, Allyson; Sam, Sharon; Clark, Jessica; Sincak, Carrie; Shaikh, Zakir; Dominguez, Edward – “Relationship between varying daptomycin MICs and outcomes in Enterococcal bacteremia.”

Lam, Connie; Phillips, Jen; Mackowski, Lisa – “Analysis of the completeness and accuracy of dietary supplement information in Wikipedia.”

Lee, Benjamin; Ralph, Rachel; Budris, William; Scheetz, Marc – “Evaluation of transmucosal immediate release fentanyl (TIRF) use and implications under REMS.”

Leung, Vinvia; Chiu, Brandon; Ly, Stephen; Wang, Wesley; Lee, Charles; Lee, Benjamin; Li, Stephen; Mui, Sheron; Reutzel, Thomas; Dela Penia, Lea; Leung, Elizabeth; So, Chunkit; Liu, Hong; Wang, Sheila – “Asian Community Health Education Initiative: students and faculty bridging gaps in healthcare disparities.”

Lubecke, Beth; McLaughlin Milena; Franklin, Chastity; Black II, Raymond – “Monitoring medication waste and developing strategies to reduce medication expenditures at a tertiary academic medical center.”

Mui, Sheron; Nath, Archana – Competed in the ASHP Student Clinical Skills Competition

Pentoney, Zachary; Skoglund, Erik; McLaughlin, Milena; Scheetz, Marc – “Navigating antimicrobial drug shortages: where are we one year later?”

Pop, Marianne; Mehta, Amisha; Vest, Kathy; Kliethermes, Mary Ann; Rockey, Nicole – “Establishment of a quality evaluation program for a pharmacist led medication therapy management clinic in a physician office.”

Pop, Marianne; Sheridan, Hilary; Thoma, Jessica; Arif, Sally; Reutzel, Thomas. – “Impact of an International Experience in Guatemala on the Attitudes of Healthcare Professional Students.”

Shah, Manali; Todd, Timothy – “Pediatric curriculum content of ACPE-accredited colleges of pharmacy in the United States and Canada.”


Skoglund, Erik; Pentoney, Zachary; McLaughlin Milena; Scheetz, Marc – “Tracking Patient Harm Due to Antimicrobial Shortages: How Bad is it?”

Calendar

Dual Acceptance Program applications due - February 15, 2013
Supplemental applications and fees, PCAT scores and Letters of Recommendations due to MWU Office of Admissions - March 1, 2013