

PharmDigest

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Rho Chi Fundraiser



On March 7, 2018, the Rho Chi Honor Society hosted a fundraiser at Schlotzsky's Deli. Members and students came out to socialize and support the society.

Shiloh High School Visited PCOM



On March 14, 2018, pharmacy tech students from Shiloh High School visited GA-PCOM. Led by members of PCOM's American Pharmacists Association - Academy of Students Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), Shiloh High School students participated in various activities to enhance their knowledge about pharmacy profession.

Meet Our Dean

Shawn Spencer, Ph.D., RPh
Dean of PCOM School of Pharmacy

Q. What was your career path?

A. I studied pre-pharmacy at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, applied to their pharmacy program and was accepted. Strangely, it didn't occur to me to apply anywhere else because I enjoyed Philadelphia, and naively assumed I would get accepted. In retrospect, it was an ill-advised risk but it worked out. I graduated with the second highest comprehensive exam score in my class. I also scored in the 98th percentile on the NAPLEX, and you might wonder how. I was highly self-regulated. My learning style was through reading, in fact, I preferred reading textbooks rather than listening to lectures. The dean of the pharmacy program asked me to consider graduate school; however, I wanted the experience of working as a pharmacist. I was hired by Eckerd's (which is now Rite-Aid) and worked from 1994-1998. Then, I decided to attend graduate school to study pharmaceuticals at Temple University and at the time, after researching the job-market, my focus was drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics (PK). I fell in love with advanced pharmacokinetic modeling and wanted to continue my graduate studies on this subject. However, my advisor left for work in industry and I had to change my dissertation focus to biophysics until I graduated in 2004.



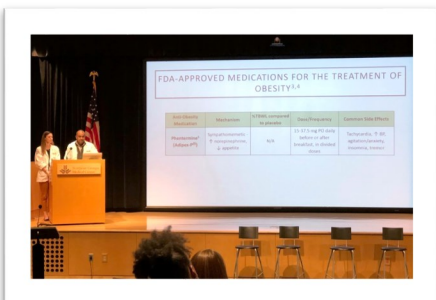
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APhA Annual



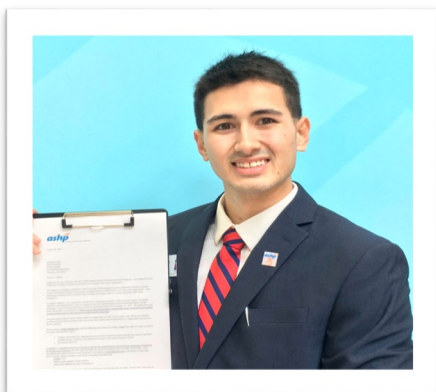
On March 17, 2018, PCOM's APhA-ASP members along with Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Dr. Drew Cates, represented the School of Pharmacy at this year's APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition.

American Association of Diabetes Educators



PCOM School of Pharmacy students, Renee Prokos and Shawn Khan (class of 2018), presented at the Northeast Georgia Local Networking Group of American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) on March 19, 2018.

ASHP Council of Therapeutics



On March 21, 2018, Michael Cooley (Class of 2019) has been elected as the Student Representative of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacist's (ASHP) Council of Therapeutics.

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A year before graduating, I was recruited by Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Pharmacy as an assistant professor. I received the Class of 2008 Teacher of the Year award which was a special honor. Next, I desired to have a more intensive research experience so I went to National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2011 in Bethesda, Maryland. I was working as a co-investigator for several Phase I clinical cancer trials at the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research. I left to help start a new pharmacy program at Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey as their director of pharmaceutical sciences, and in 2014, I was asked to become the Associate Dean of Institutional Improvement at FAMU's College of Pharmacy and I received a Dean's Appreciation Award. It felt like the natural next step was to lead a pharmacy school, but not just any pharmacy school, which is why I came to PCOM.

Q. What sparked your interest in PCOM?

A. I first recognized PCOM while I was in Philadelphia during my studies at Temple University. Being in town, I heard about the school. It impressed me as a prestigious institution which was a factor; however, I was very much drawn to a pharmacy program which was born and raised within an osteopathic culture. It speaks to my own views and approach as a healthcare educator.

Q. How have your experiences been at PCOM?

A. In just a very short period of time, I've been impressed with the commitment of the faculty, staff, and students. The culture at GA-PCOM, there's genuine enthusiasm and a sense of community, like being part of a family. I've been welcomed by everyone within the organization which makes it clear why PCOM is so successful.

Q. What would you like to accomplish at PCOM?

A. We want the PCOM School of Pharmacy to be the destination of choice when students are deciding where to obtain their Pharm.D. degree. And they would return to PCOM if they had to do it all over again! That's how we judge ourselves. We are here to help students realize their

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goals and to improve lives, but to do that we have to have the highest standards for education.

Q. What are your short-term and long-term goals for PCOM school of pharmacy?

A. A primary goal is to increase our licensing exam scores (NAPLEX) above the national average while raising retention as close to 100% as possible. The only way to do that is to increase the quality of our program in every area. Over the long haul, it's very important to make sure the achievements of PCOM are visible not only locally, but nationally and even internationally. I would like to see that happen.

Q. What are some of your hobbies during your free time?

A. I like to go on nature hikes, swim, read, and even grow vegetables. I also enjoy traveling and getting to know places I've never been. Last year, I visited Maui and Curacao, driving the northern coast of Maui was quite memorable. Another enjoyable trip was visiting Ottawa, Ontario.

Q. What advice do you have for students?

A. **Your success is dependent on your Spirit of Inquiry.** What does that mean, you might be asking? Well, are you forcing yourself to continuously learn more out of fear of failure or are you driven by a love for who you are becoming? The spirit of inquiry is a sense of mystery and wonder about pharmacy; it's the burning flame within of wanting to discover or uncover more, beyond what is asked of you by the school.

Message to students:

Congratulate yourselves on where you are right now because feeling inspired about wherever you are at this moment is important. Maintain the highest standards, but try not to condemn yourself if you fall short! Keep your head up high - keep shooting for the stars - and as long as you give your very best, you will achieve the starring role which is meant for you.

Atlanta Science Festival Expo

As part of the Operation Over the Counter (OTC) literacy, on March 21, 2018, members of the PCOM's APhA-ASP chapter presented at the Atlanta Science Festival Exploration Expo. The goal was to promote medication safety.

Poison Prevention

On March 28, 2018, members of the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity hosted a poison prevention session to give pharmacy students insight about how to prevent poisoning incidents.

PCOM School of Pharmacy Serves as Training Site for VA Residents

The PCOM School of Pharmacy has been serving as a residency site for two post-graduate year one (PGY1) residents from U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Scott Turner and Paige Wallace (PharmD) are under the supervision of Dr. Drew Cates, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, where they have been exposed to various aspects of working in an academic setting.

Opioid Educational Seminar



On March 20, 2018, the Student Government Association Interdisciplinary Committee hosted the Opioid Educational Seminar. Given by the Georgia Overdose Prevention, the aim of the seminar was to highlight the national issue of opioid overdose.

AMCP Touring CDC



On April 6, 2018, the PCOM School of Pharmacy Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) members visited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention museum.

Kappa Psi Fundraiser



On April 10, 2018, members and pledges of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity hosted a fundraiser for children of the Reach Out and Read program at Skate Along USA in Lilburn, GA.

Introducing...

Hua Ling, Pharm.D., BCPS
Department of Pharmacy Practice



I have answered the question “tell me about yourself?” many times, but this is the first time I was asked to say something about myself that wasn’t for a job interview. Since I am new here, I would like to take the opportunity to tell you three things about myself.

First, my areas of expertise are cardiovascular disease and practice-based research. After graduating from Nova Southeastern University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, I completed an ACCP accredited two-year pharmacy fellowship specializing in cardiology at Creighton Cardiac Center. Prior to joining PCOM, I had served as an assistant professor at Hampton University School of Pharmacy in Virginia for three years. During my professional career, I have primarily worked in outpatient setting to provide clinical pharmacy services, including medication management.

Second, I welcome collaboration with students. My research work, including collaborations with students, has been published in several peer-reviewed journals and national conferences. If you are a P2 or P3 student interested in clinical practice-based research, please feel free to stop by my office. We can discuss any areas of practice-based research. If you are interested, we may work on some research projects together.

Last but not least, my teaching philosophy is “keep it simple, stupid” (K.I.S.S.). I first heard this from my professor and thought he was joking. After being in academia for several years, I learned that it was not easy to K.I.S.S. as I thought. The human body is complex, so is pharmacotherapy. However, my responsibility as your instructor is to simplify it, or K.I.S.S for you. To allow me

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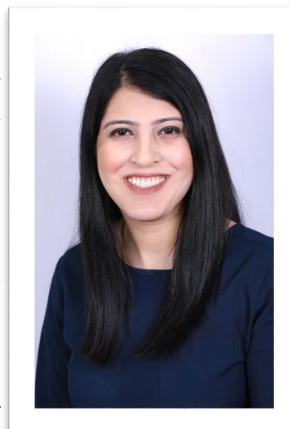
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to help you, I need your attention during class especially when I repeat something twice. You are always welcomed to stop by and ask me any question. The journey to become a pharmacist is challenging, so let's hold hands as we walk you through the process of becoming an entry level licensed pharmacist.

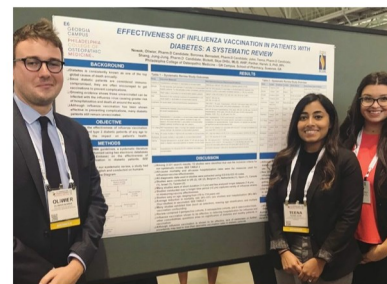
APhA Annual

Kinjal Shah, Class of 2021

In March 2018, I was able to attend the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting & Exposition (Annual) in Nashville, Tennessee with the PCOM APhA-ASP chapter. It was an absolutely amazing experience, and I am so excited and I look forward to attend the future conferences.



At the conference, there were many different sessions throughout the day that we could attend, ranging from educational to professional development and other networking events. The first session I attended was Meet the Candidates for APhA-ASP National Executive Committee, where we listened to the goals and visions of each candidate for APhA-ASP and what they wanted to achieve. Afterward, I attended the APhA-ASP general opening session, where they introduced the ASP Executive Committee and entertained guests with a talent show. Midway through the general opening session, some of us left to go to the exposition to meet with different pharmaceutical companies and learn about their products and services. What really took me by surprise was the number of students that were present at Annual and the passion they have for the growth of the profession. It was inspiring to see their dedication.

(APhA Annual continued on page 6)**AMCP Convention**

On April 26, 2018, representatives of AMCP, Olivier Nowark, Teena John, and Bernadett Boronea (Class of 2019), presented their poster on systemic review of vaccinations in diabetic patients at AMCP convention in Boston.

Pharmacist Panel

On April 24, 2018, APhA-ASP hosted a Pharmacist Panel to give students insight about pharmacy school and post-graduate education. Presenting in the picture are Dean Shawn Spencer, Dr. Caroline Champion, Dr. Jiehyun Lee, Dr. Hua Ling, Dr. Dusty Lisi, Dr. Sara (Mandy) Reece, Dr. Essie Samuel and APhA-ASP executive board members.

Dinner With a Pharmacist

On April 27, 2018, the Pharmacy Student Council hosted its annual Dinner with a Pharmacist event. Pharmacy students had dinner and interacted with pharmacists from different fields of practices. From left to right are Dr. Patricia Grossman, Dr. Joseph Walker, Dr. Lisa Aquillano, Dr. Shirin Madzhidova, Mr. Alan Edwards, Dr. Xavier Bryant, and members of Pharmacy Student Council.

Drug Take Back Day



Led by APhA-ASP chapter, PCOM pharmacy students partnered with Snellville Police Department for the first DEA Drug Take Back Day of 2018 on April 28th. Together, they successfully collected over 362 pounds of unwanted or expired prescription medications.

CVS Pharmacy Health Foundation Scholarship



On May 3, 2018, two PCOM School of Pharmacy students, Lilytte Tagala (Class of 2021, far right) and Chelsea Davis (Class of 2018, far left), were awarded scholarship. Presenting in the picture are CVS Health representative Brian Berry, Assistant Dean for Professional and Student Affairs Dr. Michael Lee, and CVS representative Charity Bowman (from left to right).

Residency Panel



On May 10, 2018, ASHP-SSHP hosted a residency panel to give insight to students who are considering clinical pharmacy. Presenting in the picture from left to right are Dr. Eryn Thacker, Macy Biddulph (Class of 2021), Dr. Bonnie Chan, and Catrina Hill (Class of 2018).

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On the second day of Annual, Rite-Aid was giving out headshot vouchers for a free professional headshot to be taken. This was such a beneficial opportunity for students who want to build their online professional profile.

At Annual, we attended many different sessions throughout the day, and most were geared towards students to help build knowledge about the different fields of pharmacy. One of the sessions I was determined to attend was the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship roundtable. I have always been interested in the aspect of industry in the field of pharmacy, and this was a good way to gain knowledge in the field and the various positions I can take part in. I enjoyed speaking with the fellows and learning about their roles in the program and about the fellowship program itself. The roundtable session provided clarity, especially for those who considered residency or fellowship. I also had an opportunity to attend the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Reception that evening. The reception provided interaction with the fellows on a one-on-one basis. I learned more about the different pharmaceutical companies the program is partnered with and their responsibilities.

The last day of Annual, I attended the Health-System Pharmacy Administration Residency session. I learned that there is an opportunity for pharmacists to go into administration and advance their career through this residency program. They also had sessions for incoming and outgoing APhA-ASP Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs for two days at the conference. As incoming APhA-ASP communications vice president (VP), I attended the Communications VP Meet Up. It was a great opportunity to meet with other students who are in the same role as I am. We exchanged ideas with each other to help our respective chapters grow.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to attend APhA-ASP Annual. It was a worthy learning experience. Not only did I expand my knowledge about the field of pharmacy, but this experience also allowed me to grow as a

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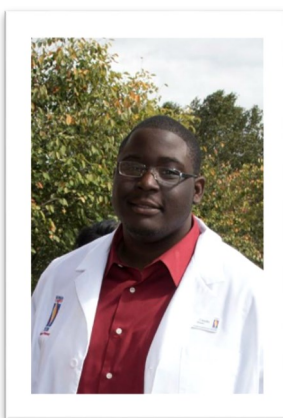
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professional. I was able to network with many students from across the country, who are also passionate and dedicated towards the field of pharmacy. I look forward to seeing them again next year at APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Seattle, Washington.

Meet Lawrence

Lawrence Uwaeke, Class of 2020
2018-2019 Student Council President

I am originally from Kansas City, Missouri and earned my Chemistry degree at University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). Upon coming to PCOM, I decided to take on a mindset in which I wanted to be more involved on campus. This ambition led me to becoming the 2020 class representative, and has given me the opportunity to serve the pharmacy school as president of Pharmacy Council for the upcoming year. My goals as president are to improve the current communication between students and faculty. I plan to do this by monitoring the “pulse” that students have through the current class representatives and chairs, and work towards improving outcomes. Additionally, I also want to help foster professional growth by developing activities that will teach students that the faculty are more than just there to teach you from 8 – 12PM. In parallel to this paradigm shift, I would like to help provide more opportunities outside of campus to get involved by working closely with clubs, and seeking opportunities when available to allow our pharmacy program to thrive in community outreach. Missouri is known as the “Show Me” State, so I don’t plan on being idle as president. Together, we can support one another, display our passion and represent PCOM School of Pharmacy.



2018 Commencement Dinner Dance



On May 22, 2018, GA-PCOM hosted its annual Dinner Dance at the Infinite Energy Forum to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2018.

Class of 2018 Graduation

95 members of PCOM School of Pharmacy Class of 2018 participated in commencement ceremony on May 24th at Infinite Energy Forum. Jennifer Sterner-Allison, President of Georgia Society of Health System Pharmacists (GSHP) and Pharmacy Clinical Manager at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Scottish Rite hospital, delivered the commencement address.



PCOM School of Pharmacy 2018 Award Recipients



- Mylan Pharmaceuticals Excellence in Pharmacy Award:
Chelsea Parry
- Wolters Kluwer Health 2018 Award of Excellence in Clinical Communications:
Erish Malonzo
- Community Service Award:
Hilda Alvarez
- Lilly Achievement Award:
Nidhi Gandhi
- Dean's Award:
Anthony Alexander
- APPE Student of the Year:
Sirena Hu
- Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Award:
Irاندokht Khaki Najabadadi
- Pharmacy Practice Research Award:
Mark Martinez
- PCOM Pharmacy Student Award:
Soo Yeon Yoon
- Leadership Award:
Angie Amado
- Dean's Citizenship Award:
Andrew Brinton
- John C Kermode Award:
Angie Amado
- Adjunct Preceptor of the Year:
Dr. Deborah Bodah
- Faculty Preceptor of the Year:
Dr. Dusty Lisi

Congratulations Class of 2018!