

# The Pitt Capsule

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



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## Lights, Camera, Action!

By Kyle McCormick

Welcome back to those who ventured to Los Angeles for an exciting weekend of pharmacy networking, education, and sightseeing! I hope you have been able to adjust to school life again, but don't get too comfortable, as Spring Break is right around the corner!

Much has happened since the last issue of the Capsule went out. To quickly bring you up to speed - Election results were tallied and the new executive board was named (see the list later in the issue). Congratulations to all who won and I look forward to future chapter accomplishments! Pharmacy weeks wrapped up with Formal, where Dr. McGrath was named Faculty Member of the Year, Kyle McCormick - Student of the Year, Vivian Nguyen - P1 Rising Star, Cara Mazzarisi - P2 Rising Star, Michelle Bucci - P3 Rising Star, Elyse Weitzman - P4 Star, and Sarah Ward - Unsung Hero. Congratulations to all and thank you for all of your contributions to the profession and our ASP Chapter! And most recently, the trip to Los Angeles where Pitt had an amazing turnout with 62 students in attendance. Policies including expanded immunization privileges and care transitions were discussed, awards were distributed, the National Patient Counseling Competition Winner was named, and the National Executive Board for 2013-2014 was selected.

Needless to say, it has been an eventful month and we have just as much lined up over the next month. GenerationRx has ramped up its efforts with plans to reach the ninth grade classes in the area. PPA is looking to storm Capitol Hill for Legislative Day and address issues meaningful to student

pharmacists such as expanded immunization privileges. Already, 102 P2s have signed up to advocate for the profession. IPSF plans to collaborate with the other global health organizations in planning a series of events for World Water Week. And ASP, as a whole, is looking to wrap up the semester with an exciting end-of-the-year celebration for our final GBM. What does this mean for you?

Although the semester is coming to an end, there are still plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. Attend as many committee meetings as you can to find out what suits your interests. Another way to find your interests and develop your professional skills is to participate in the Spring Leadership Retreat. We invite you to this year's **Spring Leadership Retreat, Saturday March 23rd, from 12-4pm in 1400 Posvar**. Find your Passion for Patient Care and become a leader in the profession!

## IPSF Marches On

By Ravi Patel

At the past meeting of the International Pharmaceutical Student Federation (IPSF) Committee, we discussed the plans for the rest of the semester. To carry out the objective to educate students about public and international health issues, we are collaborating with the Schools of Medicine and Public Health to hold a series of events on the topic of "Medical Tourism"—when patients, students, or providers participate in health care abroad.

In the week of March 18<sup>th</sup> we will be screening the documentary "Made in India" which covers the topic of surrogate pregnancy abroad. This will be followed by a panel discussion of the film with, tentatively, the filmmaker and faculty from the various schools of health sciences. The second

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“Medical Tourism” event will be a tabletop disaster simulation in which participants will be on interdisciplinary teams responding to fictional disasters and facing issues with epidemiology, medicine, ethics, and law. More details about the dates/locations of these events will be made available closer to the events. All students are invited to attend both of these engaging events.

Looking ahead, planning for the Medical Spanish sessions in March/April has begun. Feedback on student interest in participating in or planning the event will be sought shortly. Planning for our Student Exchange Program has also begun. We look forward to hosting at least two international pharmacy students this June. Students interested in participating in the arrangement of these students’ professional/social experience during the summer are encourage to contact us at PittIPSF@gmail.com. All that is needed is a desire to help students learn about pharmacy here in the United States and to learn more about pharmacy abroad.

For all information about our Committee’s events and activities visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/upittaphaaschapter/ipsf>. Have a safe, enjoyable Spring Break!

## Presidential Updates

By Trey Draude

Class of 2015 is going to LEGISLATIVE DAY! Keep on the look out for promotional videos! We are very excited that we have such great participation! We have a verbal contract that Dr. Smith will find a way to provide dinner for us, so there's that, also! We are also continuing to work on our class grant project for the Million Hearts campaign and NACDS. We have a lot to look forward to over the last two months of our P2 year.

By Georgina Waldman

The P1's are wondering where February happened to go, and are preparing for the last half of the semester. In February our very own DAB member, Neil Turco, was runner up for Dr. Salk Hall, Vivian Nguyen was honored at the ASP Formal as the 'Rising Star' of the P1 Class and the class as a whole has had successful Silver Script experiences out in the community! March holds more fun, with several members of our class attending APhA annual meeting and finishing filming our MTM 'commercials' for POP. The P1 class is looking forward to Spring Break and the day after finals - as always!

## The Pitt Capsule:

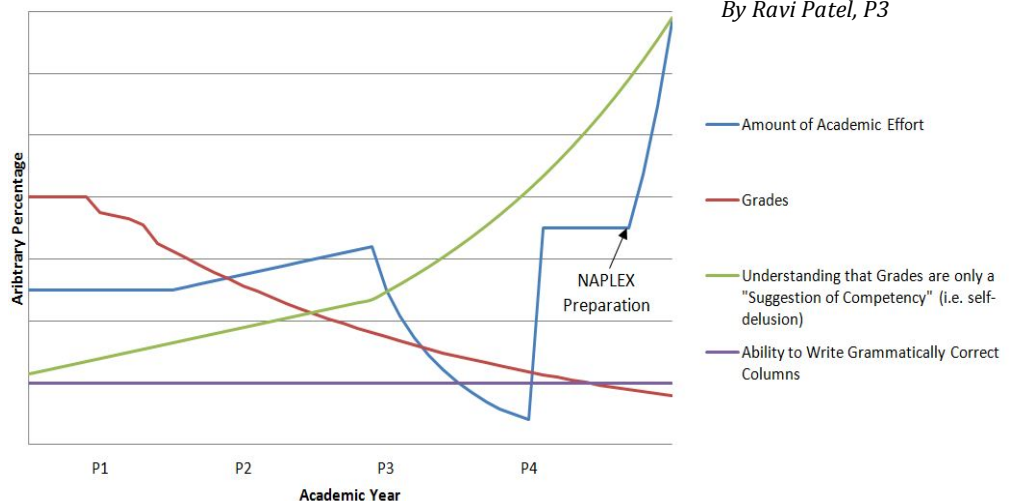
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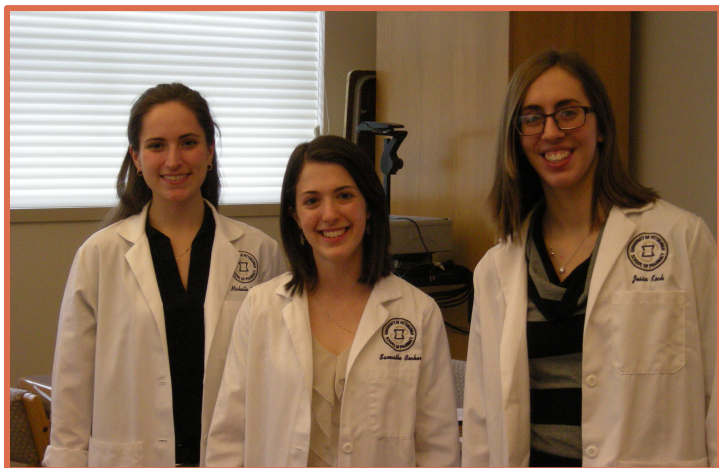
- Kyle McCormick
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- Sam Becker
- Shayna Stout
- Greg Trietley
- Kathyrn Wersosky
- Greg Trietley
- Sudha Mokkalpati
- Joshua Radel
- Jessa Koch
- Ashley Firm

### Markers of Education Throughout Pharmacy School

By Ravi Patel, P3



## Patient Care Prepares for a Busy March



*P3 students, Michelle Bucci, Sam Becker, and Jessa Koch participate in a GenerationRx presentation at a local library.*

By Sam Becker

We hope everyone enjoyed their time at Annual in LA! We'd also like to welcome P1 Meera Vachhani, who will be joining us as a Patient Care Co-Coordinator next year! The Patient Care Committee had a busy start to the semester with many community events, including a blood pressure screening for the kidney foundation, tabling for drug disposal at a health fair and at Falk Pharmacy, holding our first Generation Rx lecture series and our first presentation about prescription drug abuse

at a local library.

Looking to get involved? Here are some opportunities we have to offer:

- Generation Rx High School Presentations: Starting this month we will be going to various high schools throughout Pittsburgh to deliver presentations about prescription drug abuse to students. We are looking for students to present so definitely contact us if you are interested!
- Generation Rx Parent Presentations: We are in the process of setting up presentations at places in the community to educate adults about prescription drug abuse with the hopes that they can help their children. We will also be looking for students to present at these talks.
- Drug Disposal Education at Falk Pharmacy: Looking for IPPE hours? Sign up on the portal to table about drug disposal at Falk Pharmacy during the lunch hour.
- Inter-Organization Health Fair: In April, we will be holding various health fairs throughout the community. Each pharmacy school organization will have their own booth.

As always, please contact Sam or Katie with questions or if you are interested in participating in any of these projects.

## LKS Welcomes New Officers

By Shayna Stout

The members of LKS are excited to announce that the new officers for the 2013-2014 school year have been chosen! Over the course of the next few months, the officers-to-be will be spending time with the current officers, so that they can be as prepared as possible for their roles next year! LKS would like to extend special congratulations to President-Elect, Natalie Valentino, as well as Vice-President Elect, Julia Zecchini!

The LKS fundraising officers have been very busy this semester, creating many more opportunities for LKS members to fundraise! This semester's fundraisers include another clothing sale (this time with Pitt Pharmacy yoga pants!), as well as a Pittsburgh Popcorn fundraiser and a jewelry party to benefit travel costs for those members who will be attending the national LKS meeting this year!

The professional project chairs are continuing to work hard to bring many opportunities to LKS members. Hygeia Day, which will take place during the lunch hour on March 6, will include a lecture on the topic of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Additionally, LKS is continuing to work with NOCC (National Ovarian Cancer Coalition), and tabling to raise awareness about the LKS theme this year, which is diabetes. Operation Inspiration (Dean's Theme) is also still going strong, with LKS members offering smoking cessation kits and gathering information from patients. Service projects this semester for LKS include Snow Angels, hosting a "baking night" at Family House, as well as continuation of Adopt-A-Block in Oakland.

As you can see, the members of LKS will be busy with projects this semester! LKS members hope to see everyone at their various events, and wish a happy February to all!

## Rho Chi Welcomes New Members!

By Greg Trietley

Congratulations to the members of the P2 class invited to join Rho Chi!

Anthony Boyd, Alaina Burns, Megan Campbell, Alexandra Chambers, Tyler Chanas, Matthew Dukewich, Jonathan Faix, Rachel Gavin, Ronald Heisel, Carlo Iasella, Adrienne Jantzi, Michael Johnston, Corey Karadeema, Ruth Lidoshore, Liana Mandel, Hilary Navy, Erin Resetar, Nicole Romstadt, Melissa Shook, Nan Wang, Gordon Watkins, Madeline Watton and Joshua Weber will be officially inducted on **Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.**

The first Rho Chi meeting with P2 members will be on **March 7 at noon in 355 Salk.** New officers for the 2013-14 school year will be elected.

The date of this year's Koch Lecture has been set. Dr. Joseph T. DiPiro, Professor and Executive Dean of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy, will speak on March 27. Dr. DiPiro is also the senior editor of *Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach*, a textbook every Pitt Pharmacy student knows and loves.

The March Rho Chi Health Talk on over-the-counter products at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center has been postponed due to a lack of availability over spring break. The next health talk is on depression and is scheduled for April 8.

Dr. Falcione will have part two of her teaching seminar with Rho Chi members later this semester at a time to be determined. It has the potential to be the best sequel since *Iron Man 2*.

For questions about the Pitt chapter of Rho Chi, please feel free to e-mail us at [pitrhochi@gmail.com](mailto:pitrhochi@gmail.com).



School faculty present their research projects to students, residents and fellow faculty on Thursday, January 31st at the O'Hara Student Center as part of Rho Chi's "Posters, Professors and Progress" event.

## Kappa Psi Back in the Swing of Spring!

By Kathryn Wersosky

February was a whirlwind of a month for Kappa Psi brothers. We are very proud to have strong representation in other organizations as the new members of Rho Chi and Phi Lambda Sigma were announced and officer positions in SSHP and APhA-ASP were elected. Congratulations to you all! Also, a huge thank-you goes out to Sajid Ahmed, Joe Fiore, Derek Sampey and John Stapf for representing the Beta Kappa chapter at our Mountain East Province Assembly in Winchester, Virginia. At least once per semester Kappa Psi has a province meeting and it is important that our chapter has a voice at each one, so thank you!

In the spring, the Beta Kappa chapter runs on the

adrenaline of planning social activities and helping out the community with hundreds of service hours. We celebrated mid-February at our Black & White party, which succeeded in showing the brothers and their dates a great time. Now, we are working hard to support the Pitt Pharmacy Relay For Life team and helping when we can to cook meals at the Family Houses in Oakland.

This semester we created a Patient Care committee for our chapter in order to maintain our involvement in ASP projects. This committee will help keep all 131 of the active brothers in the loop for event sign-ups and will also support our current efforts in participating in Project Quit with SNPhA. We are looking forward to the rest of a spring full of valuable pharmacy experiences and fun activities!

## SSHP Updates and Elections

By Sudha Mokkapati

Congratulations to the new SSHP e-board members: Dan Nelson (P1), President-Elect, Cara Mazzarisi (P2), Vice President, and Alison Doherty (P2), Business Manager! We are excited to welcome them onto our team and look forward to working together to better serve you, our members and fellow students!

Thank you to everyone who bought the Sanford Anti-Microbial Guide as a part of SSHP's spring fundraiser. If you missed out this time, stay tuned for our next sale next semester. If you are looking to get some volunteering in before the end of the semester, or just feel philanthropic, you have plenty of options to choose from, including assembling and distributing Cancer Care Packages at the Hillman Cancer Center, tabling for Poison Prevention week, and educating undergraduate students about contraception.

Also, please feel free to drop off any new craft supplies you would like to donate in the designated box in the PCLC, to be donated to the kids at the Children's Hospital. If any of these projects pique your interest, please feel free to email PITT.SSHP@gmail.com. We need your help to make these projects a success!

## PDC Updates

By Josh Radel

The brothers of Phi Delta Chi were excited to host several members of its national board for a chapter conference this past month. During the first weekend in February, brothers met at the PCLC and discussed ways to improve our chapter, our strengths, fundraisers, community service projects, and conducted leadership workshops. Those that attended found the conference to be a valuable experience and we are using the meeting to grow as a chapter.

Looking ahead, Phi Delta Chi brothers are preparing for our upcoming E-board elections. Younger members who are interested in holding an office have been working closely with the current executive board in order to get a feel for how to run our organization. Also, we are excited to participate in a friendly basketball game with the brothers of Kappa Psi in the upcoming weeks.

Finally, we would formally like to congratulate the P1 class on receiving their white coats, and Brothers Ron Heisel and Jonathan Faix on their recent invitation to join Rho Chi!

## Faculty Bio.

Dr. Benedict, PharmD

**Area of practice:** Critical Care; provide care for the critically ill in the surgical/trauma and medical intensive care units (ICUs)

**Classes currently teaching:** Coordinate Advanced Pharmaceutical Care II and two Special Topics elective entitled Critical Care Clinical Skills and Research. Also teach in Pharmacotherapy of Cardiovascular Disease

**Memorable teaching moment:** As a new faculty member in 2005, I believed that virtual patients could make a real difference in a pharmacy curriculum. I was so nervous to roll out my first few virtual patient sessions back in 2006. The cases took a tremendous amount of time to build. When I was finished, I couldn't help but think that they were too "Mickey Mouse" for students of higher education. It turned out that I was wrong (fortunately enough). It was so rewarding to hear how much knowledge and skills the students had taken from the sessions. That first feedback session with the class of '06 was truly memorable to me.

**Alma Mater:** Duquesne University

**Memorable pharmacy school moment:** Educating students, both inside and outside of the classroom, to care for patients is a real passion of mine. I have had the fortune to be honored with the Cohen Teacher of the year award in 2009, Rho-Chi Society Innovations in Teaching Award in 2011 and the School of Pharmacy Faculty preceptor award in 2011. Receiving these awards truly stands out in my mind.

**Favorite subject to teach in pharmacy school:** I enjoy teaching sepsis and septic shock the most. This is likely due to the fact that the difficult nature of the subject warrants the classes' *undivided* attention.

**Favorite TV show:** Penguins hockey, Modern Family, Family Guy, Walking Dead... just to name a few

**Favorite band:** Pearl Jam (by a long shot...keep rockin' Eddie)

**Favorite restaurant:** Capitol Grille for celebrations, Mad Mex for everything else

**Advice to students:** In my experience, humans follow three traits: enthusiasm, authority, and humility. Be a leader. It's simple; just requires passion for your work, expertise in its development, and a degree of modesty in its delivery.

**Fun Facts:** I spend all my free time with 16 month old son and wonderful wife...they are my world. Enjoy weight training, golf, and I play a little in a band.

## ASP Member of the Month

**Name:** Lindsey Rihtarchik  
**Year:** P2

**Area of Interest:** Clinical Research and Academia  
**Favorite Pharmacy Class:** PDA  
**Favorite ASP Project/Event:** The Heart Walk

Lindsey is being recognized for all of her help with planning and running the Patient Counseling Competition!

## Social Committee Updates

By Ashley Firm

Phew! Another Pharmacy Weeks has come and gone. Thank you to all the organizations for hosting events, students and staff for attending the events and especially the social committee members for all their help in planning each event. I hope everybody enjoyed taking a break from studying and work for a few nights of fun.

Congratulations to Dr. McGrath on being awarded Faculty of the Year and Kyle McCormick for Student of the Year. Your hard work and contributions to the school and profession are much appreciated!

The social committee is busy planning many events for the end of the school year including happy hours and an event relating to the Dean's Theme.

Also, congratulations to the next social chair, Jessie Lewis!

## Back by popular demand!

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## Project CHANCE Updates

By Jessa Koch

We are excited to continue expanding and enhancing our project at the Birmingham clinic. Look on the Project CHANCE section of the Porxtal website to sign up for March times.

Students have been able to play an integral role in the care of patients seen with hypertension at the clinic. One student was able to see a patient for follow-up of extremely high blood pressure and help counsel her on ways to reduce her blood pressure. Another student was able to provide a blood pressure wrist cuff to a patient to help monitor his blood pressure.

We will soon have the iPads up and running to assist in educating patients as well as to use as a resource to look up drug/disease state information.

Email [pittprojectchance@gmail.com](mailto:pittprojectchance@gmail.com) with any questions or feedback on how to improve the project. If you would like to go to clinic but feel hesitant, email and we can set up an on campus or at clinic training.

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