



APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections

Candidate for Regional Delegate - Region 1



Hira Ilyas

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Previous Leadership and Experience

- UConn APhA-ASP
 - Policy VP (April 2023 – present)
 - Connecticut Pharmacists Association Liaison (April 2023 – present)
 - Member – Immunization subcommittee (Sept. 2022 – April 2023)
 - I also was the Immunization Subcommittee lead from (April 2023 - April 2024) along side my Policy VP duties
- UConn Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP): Historian (April 2023 – present)
- UConn Health Clinics
 - South Park Clinic Pharmacy Co-Director (May 2023 - Present)
 - Seasonal Clinic Pharmacy Director (May 2024 - Present)
- School of Pharmacy Wellness Committee: Lead Coordinator (May 2023 - Present)
- Pre-Professional Peer Mentor Program: Peer Mentor (Feb. 2023 – Present)
- School of Pharmacy Topic Discussion Club: Co-Chair (May 2023 – Present)
- American Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP): Chapter Coordinator (May 2023 – April 2024)

My leadership experiences have given me the chance to work with a diverse range of individuals, including students, faculty, medical students, and health professionals. Each of these interactions has helped me sharpen my communication, problem-solving, and conflict-resolution skills.

For example, as the CPA student liaison, I collaborated with the elected board to create and execute strategies that engaged student pharmacists in the policy-making process and highlighted the value of our state association. In March 2024, we successfully hosted our first monthly board meeting on the UConn School of Pharmacy campus and invited students from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) School of Pharmacy. In my role, I effectively communicated our scheduling needs to ensure strong participation from our students and worked with the USJ student liaison to ensure her chapter was well-informed.

My work at the UConn Health South Park Clinic brought me into close contact with medical students. The board comprises 48 student members, including five student pharmacists, and it took considerable time to build trust among us. This trust allowed me to integrate student pharmacists into various initiatives, including collaborations with reproductive health and dermatology clinics. This integration not only provided our student pharmacists with valuable interprofessional practice opportunities but also showcased our team's capabilities to medical students and the community. I was later invited to serve as the Pharmacy Director for the Seasonal Clinics, which was established in May 2024.

Although I made significant strides within the board, I faced some resistance regarding initiatives I was passionate about. I advocated for involving the Pharmacy team in medication and inventory purchasing, which is primarily handled by the Operations Co-directors. To find common ground, I proposed a collaborative approach: the Operations team would continue managing medication ordering while working with the Pharmacy team to evaluate medication costs and distribution effectively. This compromise was accepted, and we are now developing a document to track surplus medication orders, optimizing our resource allocation based on usage rates and disease state coverage. Data regarding these are provided by our Outcomes Director.

I thrive in diverse team environments. With my current skill set and my experiences with CPA and within my community, I am confident in my ability to serve as the next Regional Officer.

Talents and Skills

Initiative and Proactiveness

I actively take the initiative to organize and lead events, even in situations with minimal direction. This is evident in my role with the UConn School of Pharmacy Wellness Committee, where I led various new initiatives to promote student well-being. Additionally, my involvement with the UConn School of Pharmacy Immunization Committee showcases my ability to collaborate effectively; I worked alongside my co-chair to organize multiple immunization clinics and a primer event that helped student pharmacists refine their immunization techniques.

Collaboration and Teamwork

My experiences collaborating with diverse organizations have enriched my perspective on problem-solving. For instance, while working at UConn Health clinics and with the Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA), I collaborated with medical students and licensed pharmacists. These interactions have provided valuable insights into interdisciplinary teamwork, enabling us to address challenges more effectively.

Problem Solving and Critical Thinking

The pharmacy curriculum covers a broad range of topics, yet it doesn't encompass all NAPLEX subjects in depth. As Co-chair of the Topic Discussion Club, I provide students with opportunities to explore these underrepresented topics through engaging discussions. I coordinate relevant preceptors to enhance the learning experience, offering clinical pearls and fostering connections between students and practicing pharmacists. This initiative creates a safe educational space for students to deepen their understanding of essential topics in pharmacy.

Plans as a Regional Delegate

As an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate, I am committed to enhancing student pharmacists' engagement in the APhA-ASP Policy Process by highlighting the real-world impact our policies have on the profession. Throughout our academic journey, many of us may overlook the crucial role that advocacy plays in shaping our field. By examining the positive changes we've achieved together, we can effectively illustrate the progress our profession has made and discuss the new policies recently passed by the APhA-ASP House of Delegates. Reflecting on my own journey as the Policy Vice President, I understand firsthand how easy it is to overlook the importance of advocacy and the significant changes APhA-ASP has fought for on our behalf. My goal is to provide greater insight into these initiatives, sparking interest and motivation among student pharmacists to get involved. By fostering a sense of ownership and understanding, we can inspire a new generation of advocates who will help elevate our profession and drive meaningful change.

As a Regional Delegate, I wish to boost student engagement in the policy process and advocacy initiatives across all chapters. I want to empower student pharmacists to truly understand the vital role advocacy plays in our profession and inspire everyone to get involved beyond just chapter delegates and policy vice presidents. I plan to organize "Policy and Me" sessions with my fellow Regional Delegates to make this happen. These sessions will focus on the significance of advocacy in pharmacy and provide a fun, interactive space for Policy Vice Presidents and those interested in advocacy. During these sessions, we will share valuable resources, hold skill-building workshops, and create opportunities for students to connect with us, the Regional Delegates. I want to cultivate a culture of active involvement and enthusiasm for advocacy.

I believe that the APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists is crucial in shaping the next generation of pharmacy leaders. Its programs and activities should not only inform but also inspire students to become passionate advocates for our profession and our patients. By focusing on advocacy education and outreach, we can amplify our collective voice and make a real impact on healthcare policy. As a Regional Delegate, I'm dedicated to closing the gap between student pharmacists and advocacy, ensuring every member feels empowered and motivated to contribute to the future of our field.