

APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections

Candidate for Midyear Regional Meeting Coordinator - Region 3



Madisun Shore

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Previous Leadership and Experience

- APhA-ASP Chapter President-Elect
- APhA-ASP Chapter Coordinator
- APhA-ASP Summer Leadership Institute Attendee, 2024
- UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy Student Ambassador
- Student Pharmacist Mentor: Mentoring Future Leaders in Pharmacy
- Co-Chair: UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy Run Club
- Co-Chair; Social Media Manager: Charlotte Green Initiative

I want to start by saying that my previous leadership experiences would not have been possible without those who first led me. A prime example comes from my pre-pharmacy years, when the Ph.D candidate I worked for as a lab technician presented me with the opportunity to serve as co-chair for my university's sustainability committee. His mentorship sparked a flame in me to do the same for others, eventually leading to the positions I pursued when transitioning to pharmacy school.

Mentorship has always been a comprehensive theme in my leadership positions across various pharmacy organizations, whether I received or delivered it. My school's previous and current APhA-ASP Chapter Presidents were the first to introduce me to the countless opportunities APhA has to offer when they chose me to serve as their APhA-ASP Coordinator. In this position, I attended and helped coordinate my first MRM on-campus watch party, collaborating with our school's pre-pharmacy mentorship program to extend the invitation to interested pre-pharmacy students. Being both a mentee and mentor during last year's conference granted me a unique perspective, and my collaborative efforts and behind-the-scenes management can directly translate to successfully coordinating next year's Midyear Regional Meeting.

I currently serve as my school's APhA-ASP Chapter President-Elect, and the growth I have experienced personally and professionally through this position is immeasurable. Shadowing our current Chapter President leading our Chapter members successfully, and the constant outpouring of support from my Chapter Advisor are the primary motivators for my continued efforts to seek more out of APhA-ASP. It has also motivated me to pour into our new Coordinator by equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to run for my position next year and potentially a regional or national APhA-ASP position. Finally, this leadership experience allowed me to attend the Summer Leadership Institute this past July, where I formed lasting connections with Chapter leaders across the country and enhanced my passion and awareness for policy affecting pharmacy practice.

As the title states, the MRM Coordinator position requires a leader capable of coordinating not only the logistical aspects of the conference, but also coordinating efforts to promote MRM to their region effectively. Furthermore, this leader must be aware of current policy issues that affect our profession and be able to provide insight on how to vote on proposed resolutions regarding those policy issues as a member of the APhA-ASP Reference Committee. Serving as a Chapter leader over the last year has allowed me to hone in on these skills and perfect my craft to pursue a position such as MRMC.

Talents and Skills

The life of a student pharmacist is demanding and can easily cause burnout if one does not prioritize well-being. There is so much more to a student pharmacist than their leadership positions or GPA, and I have a deep passion for helping my peers and mentees realize this truth about themselves. Balancing personal and professional growth is a learned skill I have forged over time through self-discovery and supporting others through similar hardships. I respect my peers' limited free time just as much as my own, and I have made it my mission to avoid burnout and the inevitable decrease in Chapter engagement that follows.

One way my Chapter President and I have fostered an environment that supports our Executive Boards' well-being while also fulfilling their leadership responsibilities is by strongly promoting event collaboration between all ten of our Patient Care Projects and providing resources to ease the process. Collaboration supports our Chapter in more ways than one and is more than just sharing the workload; it is also about recognizing areas of weakness and understanding how someone else's abilities complement your own. Not only have we reduced event fatigue, but we have also created highly innovative events that were only possible with multiple patient care projects working together.

Outside of our Chapter operations, I promote well-being by inviting anyone and everyone to go for a group run with our school's run club. Investing in your health is just as important as investing in your future profession, and I love to create personal relationships with my fellow student pharmacists outside of the classroom whenever I can.

Plans as a Midyear Regional Meeting Coordinator

The Midyear Regional Meeting is a unique conference that emphasizes the critical role student pharmacists play in pharmacy practice. As MRM Coordinator, I would further this mission by enhancing the individual experience of each MRM attendee. This year's APhA-ASP presidential theme, "Each of Us, for All of Us," inspired me because group success is only achievable when each group member feels supported.

The MRM policy process is also a critical component of MRM that can influence the direction of APhA-ASP and even our profession. During this year's Summer Leadership Institute, APhA VP Michael Baxter stated that "advocacy is not voluntary but mandatory," and this statement has stuck with me ever since. My first exposure to pharmacy policy and advocacy was through MRM, so emphasizing that this conference is a safe space to become more comfortable with the process is something I would passionately convey to my region as MRMC.

I genuinely believe that the best way to increase awareness and participation in any event is to cater to each person's individual needs. For MRM, we must recognize that each student pharmacist has diverse needs and may not attend the conference for the same reason as the next attendee. First-year students may benefit more from policy and professional programming, while third and fourth-year students may benefit more from career-planning programming. Some attendees may desire a residency after graduation; others may pursue a fellowship, or there are even those who want to enter the workforce directly after graduation. These factors must be taken into consideration when promoting and hosting future MRMs.

One way to recognize and enhance the individual MRM experience is to create targeted messaging for each diverse student population, highlighting why they should attend MRM. For example, promoting the MRM policy process would likely increase interest in first-year student pharmacists who are likely unfamiliar with pharmacy policy. On the other hand, sharing previous attendees' testimonials about the MRM career showcase would pique interest in student pharmacists who are further progressed in their PharmD curriculums.

Those who attend an on-campus watch party may receive a different level of networking than if they attend MRM in person. To overcome this obstacle, fostering collaboration between nearby Chapters to host a group MRM watch party would be beneficial. This would allow student pharmacists to network with chapter members from different schools while still being relatively close to home.