

American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists  
2006–2007 Chapter Achievement Reports  
Chapter Policy and Legislative Award Report

The Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students  
Investing In Our Future

This past year Marie Ganski received the Student Good Government award from APhA. In her acceptance speech, she emphasized “the power of one” to accomplish great things. This slogan has been exemplified by our chapter in its activities over the past year. The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy had student pharmacists participating in activities that indicate they believe this simple, but powerful slogan. Our mission for the 2006-2007 school year was to enhance the ability to advocate on behalf of the profession by student pharmacists and to increase the knowledge of the public about policy issues that matter to pharmacy and healthcare. The activities in which this mission was accomplished were varied and diverse.

In an effort to encourage individual involvement and promote advocacy on the part of the profession, a new program was adopted in the fall of 2006. This program, named the **One-to-One Program**, consists of informal meetings between individual student pharmacists and the SPIN coordinator. These meetings were designed to encourage these individual student pharmacists to take an active role in policy and advocacy issues. First-year students were particularly targeted for this program as they are generally hesitant to become involved in this area of pharmacy early in their

careers. Given the informal aspects of this program and its success in increasing involvement in advocacy among first year students, a more formal program will hopefully be implemented in the future.

The **Voter Registration Drive** is another example of the motivation of individual student pharmacists to actively participate in the policy and advocacy process. In November of 2006, these student pharmacists indicated their willingness to contribute to the direction of legislative affairs by registering to vote in a drive held at the UW school of pharmacy. Forty-three new voters cast their votes in the subsequent elections.

The **Waunakee Health Fair** is an example of UW student pharmacist's excitement about educating the public about legislative issues that are important to them and to pharmacy. Student pharmacists were available to educate seniors about the intricacies of Medicare Part D. There was also discussion about the available drug plans and the similarities and differences between the patient's current plan and their other available options. These interactions are valuable on three levels. One, the seniors benefit from increased education about Medicare Part D, which can be confusing even for the most health conscious seniors. Two, student pharmacists gain an appreciation for aiding patients and their capability to affect positive change. Lastly,

patients can be shown the positive impact student pharmacists can have on their lives and the increasing role we can play in their healthcare.

Our student pharmacists continued to show their excitement and dedication to the profession by their participation in **Legislative Day** in March of 2007. Student pharmacists participated in discussions about current hot button issues in policy and advocacy related to pharmacy. Each major party sent representatives to the meeting to delineate their party's position on issues related to pharmacy. The second part of the day was devoted to individual meetings with legislators about issues of importance to pharmacists. Student pharmacists were able to communicate their opinions intelligently and confidently and represented the profession and the school in an exemplary manner.

Medication disposal has been a hot topic over the past year with differing opinions among healthcare practitioners about how best to handle this environmental and patient safety issue. Student pharmacists were happy to be involved in such a pressing issue. An education session was held and student pharmacists participated in a discussion about the best ways to educate the public about this important issue. In the near future in Wisconsin, legislation may be proposed related to this issue and it would be prudent for student pharmacists to be knowledgeable about this issue.

Policy and advocacy will continue to be a vital part of the pharmacy profession. By continuing to promote individual involvement to enhance overall collaboration and subsequent results, we hope to further our efforts at the University of Wisconsin. There are several initiatives described above that can be improved and elaborated upon in the coming year. With these and other issues that may arise we hope to continue the strong tradition of participation we have established at the University of Wisconsin.

## University of Wisconsin – Madison School of Pharmacy Policy & Legislation Report – Chapter Activities

September 2006:

- Welcome Back Picnic (UW School of Pharmacy): Presentation to new and returning student pharmacists by SPIN Coordinator with information on APhA-ASP policy process and brief introduction to websites to educate on the issues. 130 student pharmacists present, 4 faculty advisers assisting.
- September General Membership Meeting (UW School of Pharmacy): Introduction of new officers and roles. Continuation of “Top 3 New in the News” segment for each general meeting, with key stories related to policy and legislation presented monthly. 100+ students present, 3 faculty advisers assisting.
- One to One Program (UW School of Pharmacy): Initiation of a new program designed to target individual students and first year students in particular. This program was designed to increase confidence and involvement of first year students in policy and advocacy issues. Informal individual meetings between the SPIN coordinator and selected students occurred where current issues and policy were discussed.

October 2006:

- Policy Brainstorming Session, Pre-MRM (UW School of Pharmacy): Informal discussion on possible policies to propose at 2006 MRM in Chicago, IL. Research and minor language changes made to proposals to be submitted. 4 student pharmacists present.
- October General Membership Meeting (UW School of Pharmacy): Discussion of chapter policy proposals coordinated by Amy Kennedy, SPIN coordinator. Amendment proposals considered and final vote on resolutions takes place. Six resolutions were submitted to region four Midyear Regional Meeting. 64 student pharmacists present, 3 advisers were present.
- Midyear Regional Meeting 2006 (Chicago, IL): Active participation by student pharmacists in the programming of MRM. Saturday evening meeting/discussion by UW student pharmacists on proposed policies in preparation for Sunday’s voting. Amy Kennedy prepared for Regional Delegate election requirements. 35 UW student pharmacists attended.

November 2006

- WSPS General Meeting (UW School of Pharmacy): Education about the upcoming election issues, namely the governor's race. The candidates positions on issues related to pharmacy were discussed. Voting participation was encouraged. 52 student pharmacists attended. 3 advisers in attendance.
- Student Voter Registration Drive (UW School of Pharmacy): Students were registered to vote in the Madison area in a drive held at the school. The SPIN coordinator, Amy Kennedy, served as registrar. 43 student pharmacists were registered.
- Waunakee Health Fair (Waunakee, WI): Education for seniors about Medicare Part D. This event fell in the time period where seniors could switch Medicare Part D plans for the first time. Seniors were aided in gathering information about their current plan and other plans in the area. Seven seniors utilized the service. 15 student pharmacists attended. One adviser was present.

#### December 2006

- WSPS General Meeting (UW School of Pharmacy): All student pharmacists and faculty encouraged to stay involved over the winter break and continue to advocate on behalf of the profession. 30 student pharmacists attended. Two advisers in attendance.

#### January 2007

- WSPS General Membership Meeting (UW School of Pharmacy): Discussion on advocacy issues that occurred during winter break. Continued updates on plans for the spring semester. 42 student pharmacists attended. Four advisers in attendance.

#### February 2007

- WSPS General Membership Meeting (UW School of Pharmacy): Discussion on current policy issues in the state of Wisconsin led by Tom Engels, Vice President of Public Affairs for the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin. Additionally, an update on the APhA annual meeting was given. 45 student pharmacists attended. Three advisers were in attendance.

#### March 2007

- APhA Annual Meeting policy preparations (UW School of Pharmacy): An entire general membership meeting dedicated to discussing the nine proposed resolutions going to the APhA-ASP House of Delegates. Students were given time to discuss each resolution in small groups followed by a large group discussion and general consensus vote. Voting was overseen by Amy Kennedy, SPIN coordinator. Results of the vote on resolutions were forwarded to all students for comment prior to the meeting. Approximately 65 student pharmacists and four faculty advisers were present.
- Legislative Day (Best Western Inn on Park/State Capitol, Madison, WI): Day long informational event with guest speakers from the state and federal level. Mid-day appointments with state legislators to discuss Medicare, Medicaid and other health care-related bills. Over 100 students and numerous faculty participated.
- APhA Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA): Active participation by UW students in APhA-ASP and other educational programming. Meetings were held by UW students attending both House of Delegates sessions as well as the Region IV Caucus to discuss voting and elections. 35 student pharmacists and 14 faculty attending.

#### April 2007

- City of Madison/Municipal Elections (UW School of Pharmacy): All student pharmacists and faculty were encouraged to vote in spring elections for school board, judge and other city positions. Email reminders and links to find information on the candidates, as well as how & where to vote, were provided.
- Medication Disposal Education (UW School of Pharmacy): Education of student pharmacists about the latest updates on medication disposal and future possibilities for legislation in this area in the state of Wisconsin. Five student pharmacists attended.
- Pharmacy Student Loan Bill (PSW): Discussion between Tom Engels and the SPIN coordinator, Amy Kennedy about a proposed bill in the Wisconsin House of Representatives. This bill would allow loan forgiveness to pharmacy students who practice in areas of need in the state of Wisconsin after graduation.
- Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students Elections (UW School of Pharmacy): Information on each position available was announced to UW student pharmacists before elections. Biographies and goals statements of each candidate were presented and emailed to all student pharmacists. A transitional

meeting was held for the outgoing and incoming officers in preparations for next year's activities.