

## Message from the Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee



**Daniel Crona, Pharm.D. Candidate Class of 2010**  
**University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy**  
**Chair, Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee**  
**Chair, Pharmacy Student Forum Student Society and Leadership**  
**Development Advisory Group**

Hello student members of ASHP! I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to you. My name is Daniel Crona. I am a fourth year pharmacy student from the University of Colorado. I was recently installed as the Chair of the ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee. I am here to answer your questions, to provide resources to you and your Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP), and to represent your collective interests to ASHP. In a nutshell, I am here for YOU!

I trust you are all enjoying a relaxing summer filled with myriad pharmacy practice experiences. Some of you are just starting a yearlong journey called “rotations.” Others are working in pharmacies at various hospitals and health-systems, while others are performing invaluable research on the optimal use of medications. I applaud all of your respective endeavors. You are the bright future of health-system pharmacy.

I want to take an opportunity to update you on the inaugural Pharmacy Student Leadership Development Program that launched at the recent ASHP Summer Meeting in June in Rosemont, Illinois. At the Summer Meeting, pharmacy students from around the United States were able to hear President Mahaney in her Inaugural Address entitled “Ignite Your Warrior Within,” challenge all ASHP members to lead the charge for change. Our nation is at a tipping point when it comes to healthcare. As pharmacists, we must stand up and say, “We are the medication experts, and we are accountable for outcomes.”

During the Summer Meeting, nearly 150 student members of ASHP committed themselves to learning about the ASHP policy process. They attended policy process sessions, such as the ASHP Open Forum and an ASHP policy primer that was led by Diane Ginsburg, from the University of Texas, and myself. They actively engaged Dr. Teresa Hudson, former Chair of the ASHP House of Delegates, at the Student Caucus. In fact, direct student engagement in the policy process led me to propose amended language to a policy in front of the entire ASHP House of Delegates concerning expanding geriatric education opportunities to students. The contributions of these students inspired my warrior within and were truly impressive.

In addition, the students that attended the Summer Meeting in Rosemont witnessed the unveiling of new ASHP program devoted to leadership development. Steve Rough, from the University of Wisconsin, led a session that allowed students to learn more about the key attributes of an effective pharmacy leader. Subsequently, students were able to participate in a small group exercise that allowed them to reflect on what they learned in the previous session, and apply their new set of skills to actual patient cases and scenarios. As the Summer Meeting keynote speaker and former CEO of Southwest Airlines, Howard Putnam asserted, “When the time to perform arrives, the time to prepare has past.” The students that participated in the leadership development track

offered in Rosemont took the first important step in preparing themselves as the next generation of pharmacy leadership.

President Mahaney challenged all of us to be agents of change that strive every single day to improve the quality and safety of the healthcare that our patients receive. As wise philosopher named Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) once said, "Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So... get on your way." This is your day, and I challenge each and every one of you to become an agent of change, and to inspire the warrior inside yourselves. While the mountain of obstacles before us is certainly high, you are the future of health-system of pharmacy, so stand up now and make the necessary steps that are necessary to finding ways that you can positively affect the medication management of your patients.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact me at [daniel.crona@ucdenver.edu](mailto:daniel.crona@ucdenver.edu) or contact the ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum at [students@ashp.org](mailto:students@ashp.org). I look forward to hearing from you this year. It is an exciting time to act as agents of change, and to inspire your warrior within during this pivotal era in healthcare.