



Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee Message – October 2011

Ashley Overy, Pharm.D. Candidate 2011
Vice Chair, Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee

Hello Students,

I hope you are beginning to enjoy the Fall season, a time for football, festivals, and cooler weather... for some of us at least!

For ASHP members appointed to Councils and the Commission on Affiliate Relations, fall signals the beginning of another policy cycle for ASHP. During the week of September 19th, members traveled from across the country to ASHP headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, and discussed some of the most pressing issues facing our profession. From there, recommendations for potential policy will be reported to the ASHP Board of Directors and then discussed at Regional Delegate Conferences in the spring. Finally, they are voted on by the House of Delegates at the Summer Meeting each June! Quite a bit of work goes into creating ASHP policy, but it's so important that we take a stance on these issues, especially for when ASHP staff and members go to the Capitol Hill on behalf of the organization. Without policy, there is nothing to advocate!

A big thank you to the students who took time out of their busy schedules to represent the Pharmacy Student Forum on each Council and the Commission on Affiliate Relations:

Mindy Stanton, Council on Pharmacy Practice
Elizabeth Gorski, Council on Therapeutics
Kristine Widboom, Council on Education and Workforce Development
Terry Hoffman, Council on Pharmacy Management
Michele Simmons, Council on Public Policy
Megan Hartranft, Commission on Affiliate Relations

For those of you who are interested, the official language of policy positions approved by this year's House of Delegates were recently posted online:

(<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/HOD/OfficialLang2011Policies.aspx>).

In addition to spending multiple days discussing potential policy for ASHP, members also traveled to Capitol Hill and spoke with their state representatives about drug shortages and the importance of House Bill 2245 and Senate Bill 296, the Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medications Act. This legislation

would establish an early warning system requiring drug manufacturers to notify the FDA of an interruption in the manufacturing process enabling the FDA to work with other manufacturers to increase their production. Passing this legislation would save money, time, and patient lives affected by troublesome drug shortages. If you would like contact your representative about drug shortages, please visit the ASHP Grassroots Network (<http://www.ashp.org/menu/Advocacy/GrassrootsNetwork.aspx>).

If you ever have a policy question, ASHP or government-related, post your question in the Pharmacy Student Forum Community within [ASHP Connect](#) and we can be sure to get you an answer! Remember, “If you don’t stand for something you will fall for anything” -*Malcolm X*. Get involved in the issues! It’s your future!