

Message from the Chair



Message from Lindsey Kelley, Vice Chair

Dear Colleagues:

While some things begin to trail off as the New Year progresses (i.e. the gym crowd definitely thins out) I want to take this opportunity to assure you that the New Practitioners Forum Communications and Public Affairs Advisory Group (CPAAG) has not lost any steam. Following our first face-to-face meeting at the Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, the group has come back and continued to hit our objectives hard.

The objectives we have been pursuing are:

- Public outreach /media relations regarding roles of pharmacists.
- Work with ASHP government affairs staff to communicate grassroots involvement and government affairs information to new practitioners as well as encourage New Practitioners to actively participate in legislative events and issues.
- Collaborate with Membership & Outreach Advisory Group and Student Forum to engage new practitioners as they transition from student to new practitioner.
- Foster two-way communication between new practitioners and advisory groups.

Some of the ways in which we are meeting these objectives include: working with the ASHP Public Relations department to promote the ASHP Just Ask campaign, and designing a webinar with the ASHP Government Affairs Division to spotlight and promote new practitioner involvement in advocacy at the state level. One of the most exciting projects this group has undertaken is the development of an article series for the New Practitioners Forum column in AJHP. The series will focus on providing a reference for new practitioners as they begin to look for residencies or first jobs.

In fact, some of us may be out there looking at new career opportunities now. As we venture forth on our interviews a couple of things to keep in mind:

- **Be sincere.** Answer questions with what we would really do or say rather than what is perceived as the “correct response”. This is beneficial in two ways. First, it gives the program a chance to get to know more about the character of the candidate. Second, it provides a way for the candidate to set themselves apart by responding with something that hasn’t already been said by many others.
- **Be prepared.** Ponder responses to common interview questions. Think about why this site is of interest, short and long term career goals, and a time when a difficult decision had to be made. If required to present on a topic, be sure to review the slides before the interview. Mistakes happen, but try to do as much as possible to be ready.
- If traveling to new places for interviews, I strongly suggest taking an extra day to check out the city/town/area. If you’re interviewing for residencies, hopefully you’re interviewing somewhere you’d like to work after your residency ends. With this in mind, be sure you enjoy the community and people you will work with.
- Also, investigate your programs ideas and philosophies about work/life balance and make sure they match. This means if wearing a pager to bed does not sound appealing, make sure the program does not expect that as the norm. It can go the other way as well, if a better idea of a good time is talking about the latest antibiogram with the rounding team or another peer over a beverage, then go somewhere that offers that kind of stimulation and experience.
- The last and most important thing - **LOOK FOR MENTORSHIP!** Ask about it during interviews. How does the organization encourage/stimulate/sustain mentor relationships? Do they have a formal mentor matching process? Who is the Residency Director? Preceptor? Manager? Director? Are there many other residents/peers to bounce ideas off of? Try to get a feel for what type of mentors people will be – they are part of the growth process whether we acknowledge it or not.

Thank you to the Communications and Public Affairs Advisory Group members for their continued hard work and commitment. Thank you to all New Practitioners for providing feedback and a constant stream of ideas to keep our profession moving forward.

I'd like to close with a quote from Maya Angelou's lecture during the Midyear Clinical Meeting, "I always say yes to the good things...and then I go home and I pray about it. And I ask my friends for advice, the ones that have any sense, and then I pray about it some more. And then I try to do this thing that I said I'd do."

Continue to do the great things!

[Lindsey R. Kelley, Pharm.D.](#)

Vice Chair, New Practitioners Forum (2007-2008)

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