In this Review:

THE ASHP POLICY PROCESS

Discover how proposals become ASHP Policy Statements and learn about the impact they have on pharmacy practice.

POLICY WEEK 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Review key issues addressed during Policy Week 2019 and find out how you can get involved in advocacy efforts!

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Hear from Jennifer Wang Tomlinson, Council for Public Policy student representative; and Sara Scott, Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee member on their involvement in policy week.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY GROUP (PLAAG)

The Policy and Legislative Advocacy Advisory Group serves to advise ASHP regarding the growth and development of pharmacy students as effective advocates for the profession of health-system pharmacy and strives to equip your SSHP with up-to-date resources regarding national and ASHP policies, as well as ASHP advocacy efforts. We hope you enjoy this Policy Week 2019 Update!
Policy week signals the start of a new policymaking year and is the foundation of ASHP’s advocacy efforts. During Policy Week, the policy councils deliberate key issues and attend Legislative Day, where they collaborate with ASHP members to educate Congress on the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists and gain support for ASHP’s legislative priorities. The ASHP policies that go on to be approved serve to foster cohesiveness among health systems and provide a map for the investment of resources and advocacy efforts.

The ASHP Policy Councils

**Education and Workforce Development**
Concerned with policies related to the quality and quantity of pharmacy practitioners.
Student Representative: Jenna Summerlin

**Pharmacy Management**
Concerned with policies related to the leadership and management of pharmacy practice.
Student Representative: Lyndsay Ryan

**Pharmacy Practice**
Concerned with policies related to the responsibilities of pharmacy practitioners.
Student Representative: Cassandra Schmitt

**Public Policy**
Concerned with policies related to laws/regulations that have a bearing on pharmacy practice.
Student Representative: Jennifer Wang Tomlinson

**Therapeutics**
Concerned with policies related to medication therapy.
Student Representative: Henry Le

KEY ISSUES 2019

- **Violence and firearm injury and death**
- **Mental health resources and training programs**
- **Substance abuse and the elderly**
- **Continuous and extended interval antibiotic dosing**
- **Hospital closures in rural and medically underserved areas**
- **Drug Importation**
JENNIFER WANG TOMLINSON
Position: Council for Public Policy, Student Representative
Education: Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Graduation Year: 2020

WHAT FIRST GOT YOU INTO POLICY?

I was always passionate about policy growing up. I felt it was an under-appreciated area of interest and yet, policies affect us and our patients every day, in so many ways we would never realize. I felt compelled to speak up as an individual who was actually going to practice in healthcare, which made so much sense because the strongest voices are the voices that come from people who actually live the life day-to-day (speaking to pharmacy in particular). In pharmacy school, I made every effort to either lobby at the local level, participate in controversial health reform sessions by our governor, and attend advocacy group presentations that were held by local residents. I found so much need for advocacy in pharmacy because the public advocacy groups always had something negative to say about how pharmacists are the ones who are robbing individuals of their free-will by charging exorbitant prices. I also competed with an inter-professional team at a local competition on a public health crisis (opioid epidemic), which allowed us to present a solution to a world health problem on suicide in Ghanian children after the Ebola outbreak. We had to speak with political representatives, both from the WHO and the CDC in order to convince them that our voices to a solution were important as future practitioners and healthcare workers. This experience provided me with the insight into inter-professional advocacy.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH ASHP’S POLICY WORKGROUPS?

I brought my experiences back to our school, where I served as the VP for our student chapter of ASHP. I would present on local policy updates during our meetings while promoting the belief that pharmacists have to speak up for their own profession. I joined the PLAAG workgroup from 2018-2019 as a member, which allowed me to gain more insight on how I could become more involved as a student on a national level.

CAN YOU WALK US THROUGH SOME OF YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH ASHP AND POLICY?

As the student member of the Council on Public Policy, I was assigned certain sunset reviews to evaluate (ASHP policies that have been in place for a few years and require review or updating to determine whether or not they are still important and relevant to pharmacy practice). For example, a policy I reviewed pertained to the FDA renaming of biologics that was, and still is, controversial to pharmacists, since other organizations do not recognize the new naming system. Other policies we reviewed as a council involved pharmacist recognition as a provider for CDTM billing purposes, drug importation from Canada, technician training requirements, pharmacist involvement in hospice care treatment processes, etc. These ASHP policies were created from either our council or other councils in previous years. The policies were created with the intent to clarify current laws or political views that have yet to become law so that members of ASHP would have a reference to the stance of the organization. My current duties as the student member are to review policies with the council during Policy Week. After Policy Week, our council continues to review policies throughout the year in order to ensure that the language is still relevant, and that the policy is still necessary to pharmacy practice.

"POLICIES AFFECT US AND OUR PATIENTS EVERY DAY, IN SO MANY WAYS WE WOULD NEVER REALIZE"
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SARA SCOTT
Position: Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee Member
Education: UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy
Graduation Year: 2020

WHAT MADE YOU INTERESTED IN POLICY?
I was uneducated on the pharmacy policy and advocacy process until I attended the ASHP Advocacy Bootcamp in the Spring of my second year of pharmacy school. At this meeting, I was inspired by other student pharmacists who shared their experiences advocating for our profession and our patients. I realized that pharmacy policy drives the advancement of our profession and patient care, and I have found ways to be involved in that process ever since.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY ABOUT LEGISLATIVE DAY?
My favorite part of policy week was having the opportunity to speak with passionate members of the pharmacy profession who were in D.C. to share their stories and make a difference. It is inspiring to see these highly successful individuals from all over the country come together to advocate our nation’s leaders about very important pharmacy issues.

WHO DID YOU INTERACT WITH DURING LEGISLATIVE DAY?
I had the opportunity to conduct visits with healthcare staffers from both North Carolina Senator Richard Burr and Senator Thom Tillis. Additionally, we met with the healthcare staffer and Representative David Price who represents North Carolina’s 4th congressional district where I currently live. I attended these meetings with 4 other ASHP leaders from North Carolina including one of the ASHP Board of Directors members Dr. Stephen Eckel.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WERE THERE FOR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN?
All student representatives from the Council were in attendance at Legislative Day as part of Policy Week. The Pharmacy Student Forum Executive Committee requested to attend as a group. We were able to participate in all activities including the legislative visits. Additionally, as a bonus, many student participants were able to observe House of Representatives debated and vote!

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROCESS OF LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL AND HOW THIS IMPACTS THE PHARMACY PROFESSION?
Legislative Day provides student leaders and practice leaders the opportunity to advocate current and “hot off the press” issues. This year, just a few days before our visit, we learned of the issues with CMS Pharmacy Residency funding. We therefore were able to work this into our discussion with the congressmen and be the first to bring the issue to their table. Importantly, these interactions give us the opportunity to share stories and speak to how these issues directly impact our practice and our patients.

How can you get involved?

Use #4ourpatients to tweet your thoughts on policy week or connect with those who attended policy week.

Make sure every member of Congress hears about the important role that pharmacists play in patient care by emailing your representatives here.

Visit ASHP’s website to learn more about Policy Week 2019 and other ASHP advocacy initiatives.