

## **AMCP Students Advocate for Legislative Advancement University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy**

### **Project Description and Implementation Overview**

Throughout the course of the academic year, our AMCP chapter accomplished educating students and faculty on various legislative and advocacy issues surrounding pharmacy today. Our Director of Legislative Affairs prepared 'AMCP Action Alerts' and newsletters that included several topics of discussion within pharmacy and managed care. The different topics of discussion included Fighting the Opioid Epidemic, A Look into the Future of Pharma and PBMs, Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Provider Status for Pharmacists. Each Action Alert and newsletter provided students background information, current legislation and discussions surrounding the topic, as well as information on how they could become involved. By using our chapter AMCP LISTSERV, Facebook page, and website, we were able to share the Action Alerts and newsletters with fellow pharmacy students and faculty.

In preparation for Pharmacy Legislative Day, we implemented two General Body Meetings that provided students important information on both the logistics behind Legislative Day as well as current legislation being discussed. Our Director of Legislative Affairs held her own General Body Meeting to better prepare students. Within her presentation, she provided valuable information on the logistics of the day such as how to register, prepare, and participate, as well as introducing bills that may immediately impact the future of our professions. The presentation also included resources on how pharmacy students can become involved. For our second General Body Meeting, we invited Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak to speak to students on different legislative and advocacy issues in pharmacy. Her presentation included the topics of the Pharmaceutical Information Exchange (PIE) Act of 2017 (H.R. 2016), the rising cost of pharmaceuticals, and the opioid epidemic.

**Purpose of the Project**

The purpose of our projects were to simply educate and spread awareness to pharmacy students and faculty on legislative and advocacy issues. The Action Alerts and newsletters were written with the purpose of increasing awareness of pertinent issues and topics within pharmacy, and especially managed care. The General Body Meetings talking about Legislative Day were held with the purpose of providing information on how we, as pharmacy students, can become involved.

**Project Budget: Expenses and Revenues**

The expenses incurred during our Advocacy project were minimal, but the results of our advocacy were not significantly impacted and we were able to effectively broadcast our message. As part of a university with an emphasis on go-green initiatives, we focused on live presentations to audiences and electronic distribution of relevant materials via LISTSERV email lists.

**Who and How Many Chapter Members are Involved?**

While all 16 Executive Board members of our local chapter were critical to the success of this year's events, our Director of Legislative Affairs was the head of all legislative projects. She took lead in writing the Action Alerts and newsletters, and, in collaboration with our Director of Special Projects, organized the two legislative General Body Meetings. Our Secretary, Director of Communications, and two P1 Liaisons were the head of communicating the Action Alerts, newsletters, and General Body Meeting information to our student population.

**Who Should be targeted? Audience or Involvement? How Do You Find Them? How Do you Contact them?**

Our target audience throughout the year was pharmacy students and faculty within the college. By utilizing our UIC AMCP LISTSERV, our local chapter Facebook page, and our chapter website, we were able to effectively distribute the Action Alerts and communicate announcements about upcoming Legislative Day General Body Meetings.

**What materials are Needed? Outside Resources, Ordering, etc?**

Materials needed to produce the Action Alerts and newsletters included the AMCP Monthly Legislative Briefing and Daily Dose emails. We also required alumni contact information to reach out to prospective speakers to present on legislation and advocacy. For the General Body Meetings, we utilized a lecture classroom within the college and PowerPoint presentations prepared by the speakers.

## **Timeline for Implementation and Execution**

### **August**

- Start research and preparations for September Action Alert

### **September**

- Finalize Action Alert and release to students
- Start research and preparations for October Action Alert
- Work in collaboration with Student Pharmacy Advocacy Coalition (SPAC) to create newsletter

### **October**

- Finalize Action Alert and release to students
- Finalize SPAC newsletter and release to students

### **January**

- Start research and preparations for February Action Alert
- Reach out to Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak to give legislation presentation

### **February**

- Finalize Action Alert and release to students
- Continue finalizing presentation date with Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak
- Legislative Day meeting by Director of Legislative Affairs

### **March**

- General Body Meeting by Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak
- Send thank you email to Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak

## **Follow-up with Faculty Member/Volunteers/Participants**

A personal thank you email was sent to Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak for her time and efforts towards further educating us with her presentation.

### **Project Evaluation:**

#### **What Went Well? What Didn't? How Would You Improve for the Next Year?**

The General Body Meetings in preparation for Legislative Day were well-timed. By having our Director of Legislative Affairs provide students with background information on Legislative Day in mid-February, it gave students enough time to register and start thinking about what they would like to accomplish during the visit to Springfield. By having Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak give a presentation on current legislations being discussed (e.g., the PIE Act of 2017) just days before the trip down to Springfield, students were better prepared and equipped with knowledge of potential discussions that may be heard during the visit.

For each meeting, we had roughly 20 students in attendance, and we would like to see these numbers increase for next year. In order to improve, we would like to start advertising the meetings further in advance and try using other methods of communication such as paper flyers around the college. For future presentations, we would like to provide students with a copy of the presentation so they are able to take notes and have the information readily available to them after the meeting.

---

# AMCP ACTION ALERT!

---

| Medicare and Medicaid Services|



**AMCP Submits Comments  
to CMS on Medicare  
Advantage, Part D Proposed  
Rule**

### Timeline/Checklist for Project

Date	Activity	Responsible Party
<b>August</b>	Start research and preparations for Sept. Action Alert	Director of Legislative Affairs
<b>September</b>	Release Sept. Action Alert	Secretary Director of Communications
	Start research and preparations for Oct. Action Alert	Director of Legislative Affairs
	Work in collaboration with SPAC to create newsletter	Director of Legislative Affairs
<b>October</b>	Release Oct. Action Alert	Secretary Director of Communications
	Release SPAC Newsletter	Secretary Director of Communications
<b>January</b>	Start research and preparations for Feb. Action Alert	Director of Legislative Affairs
	Reach out to Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak	Director of Legislative Affairs
<b>February</b>	Release Feb. Action Alert	Secretary Director of Communications
	Legislative Day GBM by Director of Legislative Affairs	Director of Legislative Affairs Director of Special Projects
<b>March</b>	Dr. Jacquelyn Vondrak GBM	Director of Legislative Affairs Director of Special Projects
	Send thank you email to Dr. Vondrak	Director of Legislative Affairs