



**Candidate for the Office of APhA-ASP
National Member-at-large**

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GOAL STATEMENT

Through pursuing the National Member-at-large, my goals are as follows:

1. Encourage greater collaboration among chapters
2. Establish events and initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion
3. Highlight the role of student pharmacists as advocates.

To me, the National Member-at-large holds a unique position on the National Executive Committee in that we are on the ground at local APhA-ASP chapters and at the forefront of the work that is being sought by our fellow student pharmacists. The Student Outreach visits would be a prime opportunity to share contact information among chapters in the same region (or afar) in order to establish contact and collaborate on events. Networks are crucial and students should be able to engage with one another in as many ways as possible. Meanwhile, as Chair of National Communications and Member Engagement Standing Committees, the National Member-at-large is influential in their ability to disseminate events and ideas throughout APhA-ASP. Through email blasts or events similar to that of the American Heart Month social media campaign, students can become engaged in the work that is being done towards equitable, inclusive care in pharmacy or an advocate spotlight, with a broad definition of advocacy.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

APhA-ASP Leadership Experience:

- Chapter International Vice President 2021-2022

Local Leadership Experience:

- USC Experiential Education Partnership Advisory Committee Member 2021-2022
- PLS Seminar Series Chair 2021-2022
- USC Pharmacy Ambassador 2021-2022
- USC P1 Mentor 2021-2022
- SNPhA Remember the Ribbon Chair 2020-2022
- Office of Multicultural Student Affairs Queer Connections Peer Ambassador 2020
- Advocates Against Alzheimer's Service and Advocacy Chair 2019-2021

PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT APhA

"What do pharmacists do besides count pills, anyways?"

Since beginning my education in pharmaceutical sciences, the same conversation has been playing on repeat with family, friends, acquaintances, and seemingly passersby on the street. Many people have a preconceived notion of a pharmacist or what a career in pharmacy means, and it has been a personal mission of mine to combat these misunderstandings or limitations to demonstrate the necessity and strength of pharmacy. To me, the key to pharmacy is its potential. We are the most accessible health professionals. We are involved in every step of the drug discovery and development process. We play a key role in medical interventions and ensuring patient safety. Thus, it is this challenge to the notion of pharmacy that has motivated me to remain so steadfast in my drive to advocate for my profession and dismantle the boxes in which pharmacy is so readily placed. The work and programs of APhA and APhA-ASP, therefore, are invaluable to the innovation of pharmacy, and the organization continuously works to push the boundaries of our profession.

To me, the distinction and advantage of APhA is its ubiquitousness. It is an organization excluding no discipline or subset of pharmacy and with "something for everyone." For my own interests, it was the only organization within my college providing an opportunity for involvement in global health issues, causing me to quickly pursue the International Subcommittee as a P1 and subsequently becoming appointed to International Vice President as a P2. Yet, as I have learned more of APhA and APhA-ASP, I have only wanted to get involved more and understand how I can become of greater service to this organization. As someone who deeply values mentorship and who strives to better those around me, APhA-ASP provides a powerful opportunity to establish a network with pharmacists and student pharmacists alike who share a vision for the future of pharmacy. There are countless ways in which to foster one's skills through this organization and develop into a patient-centered, equity-driven pharmacist that utilizes their voice and platform to advocate not only for patients and peers but also for the profession itself. Regardless if I pursue a direct role in APhA postgraduation or not, the organization will still be there for my colleagues and me, ensuring that I am given the best tools and resources to be the best I can be.

SPECIALIZED SKILLS & TALENTS

Turning in the water to communicate with your partner and your team back onshore, you remain attentive of your movements, coordinating each step or shift in pole angle to ensure no samples escape out the bottom of the net. Through practiced coordination and straightforward communication, you step onto the beach where fish, macroinvertebrates, and crustaceans line your net ready for identification by scientific name. In the spirit of "specialized" talents or skills, I likely have knowledge and experiences that few pharmacy students share. I went to a very unique high school in that it focused on marine biology. Even today, the stories I tell from these four years continue to cause everyone in my life to give me incredulous looks upon finding out: I was on a birdwatching team that competitively "birded" for 24 hours straight, I received my certification in shellfish gardening, and I cared for terrapin hatchlings (baby turtles) during our lunch breaks for all four years of my high school career. Besides giving me enough material to crush the fun fact category of any collegiate ice breaker, this experience has instilled in me a lifelong sense of open-mindedness and pursuing extraordinary challenges.

Upon making my decision to apply for the National Executive Committee, it was essential to me that my skills and strengths reflected the responsibilities of the position to which I applied — landing me at the National Member-at-large. Much like operating a seine net, the National Member-at-large must remain attentive of their position and engage in open communication with members, chapters, committees, and the overarching organization for successful operations. Authentic communication and prioritization of the ideals and objectives of my organization have always been cornerstones of any leadership role I undertake. Through various roles I have held at the local level, I have organized and chaired multiple committees. For example, as PLS Seminar Series Chair, it has been my responsibility to understand the topics most relevant and desired by students in order to reflect the development needs of our members and to improve the leadership experiences of students within the college.

Furthermore, an essential skill of the National Member-at-large is the ability to engage with a multitude of people from various facets of life and pharmacy and work towards a common goal. Since beginning pharmacy school, I have readily sought out interprofessional collaboration and I believe many complex problems require a multidisciplinary approach. A talent of mine is likely my ability to step outside of pharmacy (or one discipline of pharmacy) to connect individuals. With the understanding that few health professional students understood PrEP for HIV and that curriculum is limited in such programs, I engaged with pharmacy, social work, clinical psychology, medicine, and nursing to work to address the source of the issue, surveying students to comprehend what more needed to be done. Based on my background and skill set, I believe I can excel as the National Member-at-large and bring a unique perspective to APhA-ASP.