Welcome Letters
Congratulations Class of 2020!

Welcome to the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. As your peers, we are proud of you for all of your accomplishments in life thus far. That includes excellence in your education, involvement in your community, life balance and in your pursuits of acquiring new knowledge. All of these different aspects of life compose successful pharmacy students, and we hope to support you through your next four years as you learn the ins and outs of pharmacokinetics, the intricacies of therapeutics, the articulations of the human anatomy and the finesse of pharmaceutics.

Your peers that are currently studying in this excellent pharmacy program have come together to welcome you to the pharmily. We are planning an extensive yet exciting first year orientation for all of you to help with the transition into this demanding yet rewarding professional program. Please visit http://myapsa.ca/first-year-information/ to make sure you don’t miss any deadlines before starting the program and don’t forget to join your pharmacy facebook group.

But, wait, who are we really? APSA is the Alberta Pharmacy Students’ Association and we are composed of passionate and dedicated pharmacy students from across the four years with the sole purpose of making your pharmacy experience beyond exceptional. We are committed to serving our peers, while promoting unity and camaraderie to optimize the student experience. We know that pharmacy school can and will become overwhelming at times, but we as your association, and as your friends, can help you persevere! We advocate for our beloved profession, provide academic support, plan some incredibly exciting and successful annual events, while offering all of you social and emotional support.

Have you ever heard of the Movember Mr. Pharmacy beauty pageant? Or, the annual Blue and Gold Ball? Would you like to travel to a national pharmacy student conference (PDW) in the Manitoba? Or, perhaps unwind at our TGIFs and social events. Maybe, the elegance of the Banff Seminar calls out to your inner hospital pharmacist? By becoming a member of our professional faculty association, we can take you there! A single payment of $200 gains you access to all of the services that APSA provides, including educational travel rewards, employment opportunities, rotation accommodation reimbursement, annual APSA awards and much more! We are very proud to say that almost all students from each year of pharmacy have opted into becoming an APSA member. You can flash your membership card for a discount at our partner establishments around Edmonton. You can rent a locker, access study spaces and the APSA lounge filled with game systems, board games & more! For free pharmacy swag, exclusive pharmacy threads and serious discounts on mass textbook orders, come join APSA. You can bring a cheque to orientation or pay online: APSA Store

We absolutely cannot wait to meet you and see how far you will take our program and profession. For all your questions needing answers, and for support for all those dreams that you would like to achieve, come meet your APSA Council members this September at Orientation on August 31st, 2016 or read about us on our APSA website http://myapsa.ca/about-us/!

Sincerely,

Helen Marin, APSA President
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Aliaksandr Savin, APSA President-Elect
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2-35 Medical Sciences Building
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Dear Pharmacy Class of 2020,

To begin, we would like to congratulate each of you on your acceptance into the pharmacy program at the University of Alberta! The next four years will require a great deal of dedication and hard work to be successful in learning the science of pharmacy. However, there are numerous educational and once in a lifetime opportunities to experience outside of the curriculum. As your Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) representatives, we would like to introduce you to the organization that, in partnership with APSA, will provide various opportunities to supplement your learning, meet new colleagues, and of course have fun!

Our first big event of the year will be the CIBC Run for the Cure! Each year we raise awareness and funds to help fund life-saving research and treatments. This just one example of ways we try to improve the health of our patients outside of our traditional pharmacy practice. Last year we raised over $18,000 for Breast Cancer Research, and we are looking to beat that number this year and will need your help to do so!

Please join the U of A Pharmacy team for the CIBC Run for the Cure and start fundraising this summer! As part of our fundraising efforts we also will be hosting a Slow-pitch Softball tournament in September. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with students in all years of the program and a chance to start talking to your fellow classmates so I highly encourage you to join in.

As your CAPSI representatives in Alberta, we help organize events such as the patient interview, over-the-counter and compounding competitions. These competitions allow students to practice and apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired in the classroom. The Student Literacy Challenge (SLC) is another CAPSI Competition that is open immediately to all students (including you!) and ends in mid-October. If you love to write you can submit a pharmacy related article on a topic of your choice. The winning submission is eligible to receive registration and a travel subsidy to Professional Development Week (PDW), which is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba this year and is one of the largest student-run conferences in Canada. If you are interested and would like more information on these competitions or information about PDW, feel free to send us an email!

We also help organize Pharmacist Awareness Month in March where we run health clinics and organize several symposia during the year where guest speakers talk about trending topics in pharmacy. These give students an inside look at current issues, different therapeutic topics and information about several organizations. In the first week of classes, you will be provided more information about CAPSI and what this organization does for you as a student. When you sign up for APSA, you will automatically become a member of CAPSI and enjoy the benefits available. As an added bonus, all members receive water bottles, backpacks, and agendas during our orientation.

In closing, I encourage you to work hard at school but also get involved - go out to events, presentations, conferences, and everything that is available in order to network and supplement your education and pharmacy experience. If you would like to find out more about CAPSI, go to www.capsi.ca or send Hannah or myself an email and we would be happy to answer any questions that you have. We are very excited to meet you at orientation! Once again congratulations on making it one step closer to a rewarding career in pharmacy!

Best Wishes,
Marline Aizouki, VP CAPSI Sr. Representative
Alberta Pharmacy Students’ Association
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Hannah Kaliel, CAPSI Jr. Representative
Alberta Pharmacy Students’ Association
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To the class of 2020,

Congratulations on being accepted into Pharmacy, and welcome to our faculty! APSA, (pronounced “AP-SA”) is the official student organization that will represent you during your journey over the next four years. My name is Yasir and as VP Student Services for this academic year, will ensure your student experience is nothing short of exceptional and you have everything you need to be successful.

Got questions about textbooks, lockers, or other student services? Don’t worry – we’ve got you covered! Opting into your APSA membership you give you access to locker and bulk textbook sales, which I will run during the first semester. I will also provide you with a list of textbooks you will need for the upcoming year, and will also host a used textbooks sales to save you some money.

Beyond that, our faculty boasts one of the finest exclusive student spaces in the University. As a pharmacy student, you can group-study in one of our private seminar rooms, or relax in our new student lounge, which is equipped with 2 TV’s, a WiiU, a foosball table, intense board games, microwaves, and sofas for your comfort. Students from all years congregate here so you can meet your peers and gain some helpful hints for the future from those in the years ahead. Throughout the year, I will also be hosting fun wellness events to help you get to know your fellow students and unwind from school. Last year, some of the events we had included ice cream sundaes, pet therapy, and massage therapy. Also, be sure to check out our rock climbing club, as an APSA member you will receive a subsidized rate to access the U of A’s rock climbing wall, alongside your pharmacy peers. Finally, your official APSA membership cards will entitle you to discounts at many local businesses and restaurants in Edmonton. Look for them early in the school year!

All in all, I am your resource for services that you’ll need to help make life easier, de-stress from schoolwork, and help you get the most out of your student experience. Please feel free to contact me at the email provided below with any of your questions and concerns. My goal is to help you succeed as a student in our faculty by providing tools so you can focus on doing your best, while investing in lifelong friendships during your pharmacy school career. See you at orientation!

Sincerely,

Sabrina Lorico, VP Student Services
Alberta Pharmacy Students’ Association
myapsa.ca | lorico@ualberta.ca
To the Class of 2020:

Welcome to the pharmily! You’ve worked hard during your pre-pharmacy years in order to get here, so make sure to take time to congratulate yourself for your success thus far. You are now part of an engaging community of learners and professionals who are here to help you.

My name is Doug and I am your APSA Vice President Academic for the upcoming year. My main focus will be to ensure that students’ academic concerns are addressed. I am available at any time throughout the year to guide you and provide advice if you should have any academic concerns regarding courses, grades, deferrals, etc. Please don’t hesitate to use me as a valuable resource!

Are you the type of student who loves reading and critiquing journal articles? Then please make sure to check out the Pharmacy Undergraduate Journal Club (PUJC), where students from all four years have an opportunity to learn from each other and improve upon their critical appraisal process. As part of my role on APSA, I also sit on the Alberta College of Pharmacists (ACP) council as a student representative. This allows me to bring forward students’ concerns directly to the College that regulates our pharmacy profession.

As you may have already guessed, I am part of many committees within the faculty and externally. However, I want to emphasize that my main role is to address students’ concerns and be a helpful resource when needed. Please feel free to stop me in the halls or email me if you have any questions or just want to say hi!

Again, congratulations and welcome to the pharmily!

Best Wishes,

Douglas Lam, VP Academic
Alberta Pharmacy Students’ Association
780 318 2988 | douglas.lam@ualberta.ca
Hello Class of 2020,

Congratulations and welcome to the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Alberta! We are excited to have you join our Pharmily! It may seem overwhelming looking ahead and reading through all this new information right now but we are all here to help you, and are proud of you as you are embarking on an amazing journey!

We are Morgan and Mikhail, the Grad Co-Chairs for the class of 2018 and our job is to help put on the best possible graduation for our class as we step out into the professional world. We know you are just beginning your quest for your Pharmacy degree, but trust us, time flies by quickly and before you know it you will be thinking about your graduation too! To accomplish our goal we will be hosting fundraisers throughout the year such as clothing sales, cookie dough sales, bake sales, samosa sales and many more so keep your eyes and ears open!

Our first fundraiser of the year is actually at your orientation! We will be around that day selling Pharmacy shirts! Each shirt is $20 (cash), and comes in 4 different colours: white, black, purple, and dark heather grey. We have 2 logos to choose from as well (or you could even get one of each!) which are shown below! We want you to be decked out in pharmacy swag to show off to all your friends, so don’t forget to bring your cash that day! We will also be around during the first few days of class during lunch as well for you to place your orders!

Please bring money to orientation to purchase one of our beautiful Pharmacy shirts! And look out for our other fundraisers throughout the year! Once again, a big congratulations to you and we look forward to getting to work with you in the coming years!

From your friendly Neighborhood Grad Co-Chairs,

Mikhail Surgent & Morgan Moffat
Grad Committee Co-Chairs
Alberta Pharmacy Student’s Association (APSA)
Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta
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To our incoming first year students,

Congratulations on the life-changing journey you are about to embrace! It is indeed a great achievement, and it is my pleasure to welcome you all to one of the greatest pharmacy schools in Canada.

I understand you may be overwhelmed at first with all of the information being thrown your way; from all the various organizations, to which vaccines you need to have. But I would like you to give this letter a good read and learn more about what the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacy (CSHP) has in store for you.

As your CSHP representative for Alberta, I encourage each and every one of you to become members of this organization. It is a great opportunity to become involved and be exposed to the world of hospital pharmacy. This organization will provide you with opportunities to shadow hospital pharmacists with various niches around the city and surrounding areas, applying for scholarships, attending networking events such as the Banff Seminars, as well as and many other benefits!

I will be holding a membership drive in October, and I would love to see you all there. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I would be more than happy to address whatever concerns you may have. I look forward to meeting you all!

Congratulations, and welcome!

Warm regards,

Karlson Kennedy
CSHP-AB Student Representative
Alberta Pharmacy Students’ Association (APSA)
Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta
kdkenned@ualberta.ca
Hello 2020’s!

First off, a warm welcome to the incredible Faculty of Pharmacy at the U of A. There are many things to look forward to in the next four years, so get ready! As an APSA member, you will receive a complimentary International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) membership.

What is IPSF you ask? The Federation is a leading international advocacy organization of pharmacy students promoting improved public health. With around 350,000 pharmacy students in 70 countries, IPSF concentrates on pharmacy education, public health, and research. IPSF also holds relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and works in close collaboration with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

As future health care providers, we can start to positively influence health and health knowledge in our communities. IPSF strives to offer students this opportunity through public health campaigns throughout the year that include the Anti-Counterfeit Drug Campaign, Tobacco Alert Campaign and World Health Day.

My job as your IPSF Rep is to keep you informed about exciting upcoming opportunities. To give you a taste, World Congress and the Student Exchange Programme are your chances to learn about pharmacy practice in a different country, by actually going there yourself! You can experience community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, or the pharmaceutical industry immersed in a different culture halfway across the world.

There will also be lots of opportunities to participate right here on campus! This year we will be working with Plan Canada and their ‘stock a pharmacy’ program to help ensure that people everywhere have access to basic medications. Stay tuned to hear more about this year’s health campaign and how you can get involved. Also, make sure to look for posts on APSA Member’s Corner on Facebook for some fun facts about pharmacy practice worldwide!

Again, congratulations and welcome to the pharmily!

Sincerely,

Sahiba Khurana, IPSF Representative
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