

MALTA PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTION

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO BE PROACTIVE IN THEIR STUDENT LIFE



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With the ever increasing demand of flexible individuals within the workforce, the pharmacy profession is called to fulfil multi-faceted roles. The Malta Pharmaceutical Students' Association (MPSA) strives to complement formal education with various opportunities for future pharmacists to practice and develop their interpersonal skills.

As part of the remembrance activities of the World Mental Health Day and World AIDS Day, two distinct awareness campaigns were organised by MPSA. In partnership with the Malta Dementia Society, an awareness campaign was organised to increase accessibility of the public to information about dementia and to provide information about the support which is available. A stand was set up whereby students provided information on how to best support the patient who is suffering from the condition.



Students manning the informative stand during the 'World Health Day: Focus on Dementia' campaign

THE MALTA PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION STRIVES TO COMPLEMENT FORMAL EDUCATION WITH VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE PHARMACISTS TO PRACTICE AND DEVELOP THEIR INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

For the AIDS awareness campaign, MPSA has collaborated with other campus-based organisations to organise a non-profitable charity party. The 'Play Safe: Red Party' was a successful venture where students gathered with the common aim to raise funds for the organisation called 'Xefaq', a community-based counselling service for persons living with HIV/AIDS. A donation of more than €300 was presented to the organisation which will enable the provision of a free service to persons affected with this condition.



Following an urgent appeal by the local authorities concerning a shortage in blood donations, MPSA decided to help the Blood Bank to increase blood donations by developing a Blood and Organ Donation Campaign on Campus entitled 'Fresh Blood'. This campaign aimed to raise awareness about the need of regular blood donation to ensure that blood is available for all patients when required, by recruiting new blood and organ donors and to encourage existing blood donors to donate regularly.



A student donating blood during the 'Fresh Blood Drive'

The 'Ask your Pharmacist, Know your Medicines' campaign aimed to encourage patients to be aware of the services pharmacists can offer by providing expert advice alongside the supply of medicines. This campaign was held at the Outpatient's Pharmacy, Mater Dei Hospital. A stand was set up whereby pharmacy students and pharmacists could reach out to the patients when collecting their medications from the hospital. Such pharmacist intervention helps patients understand the indications of their prescribed treatment and also simplify drug administration by devising a custom-made medication schedule.



Participating students in the 'Ask Your Pharmacist, Know your Medicines' campaign

This year, MPSA has ventured into a new area, by providing soft skills training courses. A one-day event session was organised to provide pharmacy students with an informal platform which helps promote self-development by interacting with one another. Specifically, students were given training on team building, communication, presentation and networking skills.

Following the positive response, a pharmacy career convention was organised entitled 'Take Your Education to the Next Dose'. An informal discussion was organised whereby pharmacists working within the industrial, clinical, community, regulatory and academic fields were invited to give an account of their work experiences. This enabled students to experience the various opportunities that exist within the pharmacy profession.



Students engaged in a discussion with various professionals during the 'Take your Education to the Next Dose' career convention

The various activities which MPSA organises throughout the year enable students to interact with many different professionals practising in various fields and to develop the necessary skills required within the pharmacy profession. The activities organised by MPSA are fully supported by the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Malta as both entities believe that pharmacy students should experience education beyond academic knowledge.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

All contributing authors should include their full name, affiliation at time of running the study, postal address, telephone and fax numbers and email address on the title page of the manuscript. One author should be identified as the corresponding author.

Manuscripts should include title page, abstract, text, references, tables and figures. The pages of the manuscript must be numbered.

Manuscripts should not exceed 2000 words (including abstract and references, excluding title page, tables and figures).

ABSTRACT

The format for the abstract is structured and should include objectives, method, key findings and conclusion.

KEYWORDS

Three to five keywords should be provided.

INTRODUCTION

The introduction should provide a background to the study and should clearly state the aims of the study. Provide a definition for any abbreviations and symbols that are used.

METHODS

This section should describe the subjects, setting and methods in sufficient detail to allow possibility of replication of the study. Include details of ethical approval, if applicable, in this section.

RESULTS

This section should present the salient results of the study. Epidemiological description of sample population, where relevant, and details of response rates should be provided. Data should not be repeated in figures and tables. Describe statistical analysis undertaken.

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CONCLUSION

A brief conclusion section should summarise the prominent findings of the study. It is advisable to emphasise the contribution to the field of study by the current findings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND FUNDING

Any funding received for the study should be declared in this section.

REFERENCES

References should be listed in numerical order as they appear in the text. All citations in the text must have an entry in the reference list and vice versa. All the reference numbers in the text should be in superscript.

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