

Background

- Due to growing provider shortages as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **role of pharmacists is expanding**.¹
- Expansion of pharmacy roles has implications on providing **updated education to all health professions, including health professional students**, on the emerging roles within the pharmacy profession.
- One method to approach this can be through interprofessional education (IPE).²
- Student leadership within the IPE space at institutions leads to **improved peer participation and enhances sustainability**, thus creating an improved IPE experience overall.³
- However, **minimal literature exists to evaluate frameworks** for student-led initiatives that promote advocacy in the pharmacy profession among student colleagues.
- The project will seek to describe a framework that can be utilized for the implementation of student-led interprofessional events to promote advocacy within the pharmacy profession among student colleagues.

Objectives

Propose and evaluate the utility of a framework that can be utilized for the implementation of student-led interprofessional events to promote advocacy within the pharmacy profession among student colleagues.

Results

Attendee Feedback (n=16)

All respondents self-identified as UM students

Most respondents (n=15) strongly or somewhat agreed:

- Knew **where to look for advocacy resources** for the pharmacy profession.
- **Improved understanding** of how to contribute to advocacy for the profession & new policies relevant to the profession.

Most respondents (n=14) strongly or somewhat agreed:

- **Interest in advocacy for pharmacy profession has increased.**
- They would attend another event with a similar focus.
- “Tools for Advocacy” document was helpful.

Selected Qualitative Feedback

“I thought all the topics were **really interesting** and I appreciate all the work of everyone involved!”
“To me, I really liked how time was dedicated towards the end to have a group discussion about policy and advocacy. **Many people spoke up towards the end**, so it shows that a lot of people were genuinely listening.”
“The virtual space was hard for me to focus personally.” “**I would love to see this become an in-person event!**”

Presenter and Student Leads Feedback (n=10)

Qualitative survey excluded SAC Co-Chair to avoid bias

Presenter Feedback (n=5)

Enjoyed **working within an interdisciplinary team** to deliver a presentation that explored intersections between health policy and pharmacy practice

“...it was really cool to see how **pharmacy perspectives are so vital** and need to be utilized as experts with this issue (drug shortages)”

Student Leads Feedback (n=5)

Enjoyed opportunities to **develop teamwork, leadership, and organizational skills**

Biggest area of growth because of this experience: “**teamwork skills and organizational skills**”

Challenges included coordinating multiple schedules and ensuring adequate time for project completion

Lessons Learned

- **Student-led interprofessional events can be an effective and sustainable approach** to promote advocacy within the pharmacy profession among student colleagues.
- **High-quality support during completion of deliverables** (e.g., presentations) within student-led interprofessional events should be provided (e.g., project leads, timeline).
- **Virtual platform can be an effective method of event delivery**, although in-person delivery may be considered for future event iterations.
- **Event evaluation surveys** can be utilized for determining necessary changes for future event iterations.

Next Steps

- After integrating feedback from surveys, **framework established as an annual event** through collaboration of three pharmacy organizations at our institution and the support of the C-IPE’s SAC; **considerations to transition into an in-person event.**
- Considerations for this framework to serve as a course component (e.g., within introductory IPE Modules or IPE courses).

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References

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Methods

Event Framework

Step 1. Identifying Stakeholders, Developing a Planning Committee and Optimizing Event Structure

- Three pharmacy organizations at our institution (**APhA-ASP, HSP, and SMPA**) hold an **annual Policy Event**; interdisciplinary expansion targeted this year
- **SAC to facilitate interdisciplinary expansion and intentional IPE involvement** with representation from multiple health professional schools
- **Internal Mission and Vision Statements** developed among the Planning Committee to serve as anchor/guiding statements during planning process
- Event structure expanded to include attendee discussion facilitated by Student Leads, location determined to be **Zoom (virtual)**

Step 2. Gauging Student Body Interest

- Student Interest Form distributed to students across all health professional schools via appropriate channels
- Interested students can serve as **Student Leads within the Planning Committee or presenters during the event**
- Student Leads can directly reach out to peer colleagues to increase interest and health professional school representation

Step 3. Guiding Presenters to Final Drafts

- Presenters are randomly paired by Planning Committee to ideally include a **non-pharmacy and a pharmacy presenter to present upon**:
 - (1) A policy & how it impacts patient care, interprofessional collaboration, and/or advancing the pharmacy profession, OR
 - (2) How advocacy can be important for improving healthcare outcomes and/or advancing the pharmacy profession
- Planning Committee develops **event facilitation timeline**
- Student Leads **actively facilitate on-track completion** of presentations

Step 4. Dissemination of Event Information; Final Preparation

- **Planning Committee identifies appropriate channels for distribution**
 - SAC facilitates IPE distribution; APhA-ASP, HSP, and SMPA facilitate UMCOP distribution (e.g., students, faculty)
- **Faculty advisors approve presentations prior to event**; presenters can revise presentations as needed prior to event

Mission Statement: Promote advocacy within the pharmacy profession through awareness of public policies

Vision Statement: Demonstrate how our emerging roles can support interprofessional collaboration in the delivery of high-quality patient care

Event Format and Attendee Evaluation

Presentations + Q&A (50-70) mins

- Zoom (virtual) format
- **5 presentations**, each 10 mins
 - One presentation merged 2 groups together (~15 mins)
- 2-3 mins for Q&A after every presentation

Moderated Group Discussion (10 mins)

- Moderated group discussion facilitated by a Student Lead
- After discussion, all attendees receive a Google Drive link to a **Brief Reference Document** for their future advocacy endeavors (“Tools for Advocacy”)

Event Conclusion and Evaluation (10 minutes)

Prior to conclusion of event, all attendees receive a link in the Zoom Chat function to complete an **anonymous event evaluation survey**. The survey is locked after the event finishes.

Total Time: Approximately 1 hour, 30 mins

Presenter and Student Lead Evaluation

Presenter and Student Lead Evaluation Survey

An anonymous qualitative survey is distributed to all presenters and Student Leads (except the SAC Co-Chair to avoid bias) after the completion of the event to evaluate future applications of the event framework.