
MALTA PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTION FROM STUDENT TO PHARMACIST: BECOMING TOMORROW'S PROFESSIONALS

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The transition from student to a working professional is not easy. This is especially true for students involved in healthcare, who are entrusted with caring for patients and attending to their medical needs. Errors can put lives at risk, so transitioning from student to pharmacist results in increased responsibility which students must be well trained to accept. The 'Malta Pharmaceutical Students' Association' (MPSA) strives to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

Pharmacists are trained in a variety of soft skills enabling them to deal with daily situations which may be encountered when practicing in a community pharmacy or in the clinical scenario. MPSA organises a variety of health campaigns and seminars helping students master these skills from the early years of the pharmacy programme whilst encouraging them to apply their knowledge from theory into practice.

During the summer months, MPSA collaborated with 'Celebrities for Kids' in a campaign called 'Attenti mix-Xemx'. The aim of this campaign was to increase public awareness about the sun's harmful rays. Pharmacy students, together with professional footballer Michael Mifsud, distributed sunscreen with the highest sun protection factor to people on the beach. The harm done by excessively exposing the skin to the sun's UV rays was thoroughly explained. Through providing advice to the general public, students applied theoretical knowledge into practice.



Members of MPSA and Celebrities for Kids after distributing sunscreen on the beach

For the second consecutive year, MPSA organised the 'Fresh Blood Campaign', where pharmacy students and other students on campus were encouraged to give the gift of life by donating blood.



FRESH BLOOD CAMPAIGN


Blood can't be dispensed but can be donated...up for the challenge?

MPSA Blood Drive

Wednesday 3rd October
Car Park 6
8.30am-1.00pm

2ND EDITION

DONATE
it's free





MPSA also commemorated 'World Diabetes Day' by collaborating with the Malta Chamber of Pharmacists in a campaign entitled 'Naqqas ir-riskju tad-Dijabete'.

Pharmacy students were invited to attend two workshops; the first addressing general information about diabetes and the other giving pharmacists and students a detailed insight about managing a diabetic patient. Subsequently, students were assigned to a community pharmacy where they helped the pharmacist carry out blood glucose testing. This gave students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge about the condition whilst also allowing them to practice their interpersonal and practical skills.

Continued professional development is of paramount importance due to continuous advances in healthcare. Networking with colleagues around the world and discussing current affairs related to pharmaceutical issues facilitates transfer of information pertaining to recent discoveries. For this reason, MPSA encourages students to attend conferences and seminars organised by the European and International counterparts, such as the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA) and the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF).

In addition to meeting and interacting with pharmacy students from other countries, these conferences and seminars provide students with a wealth of knowledge that cannot be found in textbooks. Students involved in organisations develop skills that contribute to a holistic approach in education.



Pharmacy students from Turkey, Lithuania and Croatia at 'Quattrino', a Twinnet project facilitated by EPSA, organised last summer in Malta



The Maltese delegation at EPSA Summer University 2012

MPSA believes that by bridging students with academic staff and other stakeholders in pharmacy, the pharmacy profession will continue to grow and develop, providing an even more valuable service to society.

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.

DISCUSSION

In the discussion a summary of the main findings of the study is to be presented and these are to be discussed in the context of international published literature and contributions to the field. Limitations and strengths of the study should be highlighted.

CONCLUSION

A brief conclusion section should summarize the prominent findings of the study. It is advisable to emphasize 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.

The references should be listed at the end of the manuscript according to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals. Please see http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html

TABLES AND FIGURES

Maximum of a total of 4 tables and/or figures.

Tables and Figures should be numbered consecutively and each must start on a separate page at the end of the manuscript. Figures are to be saved as JPEG.

Each table and figure must have a title. Define any abbreviations used. If values are cited in a table or figure, the unit of measurement must be stated.

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