November Upcoming Events:

- **3rd**: APhA-ASP GBM
- **4th**: Operation Heart Committee Meeting
- **10th**: Operation Self-Care Training Session
- **18th**: APhA-ASP/Rho Chi/SGA Research Roundtable
- **23rd**: Healthy Holidays at Giant (11-3pm)
- **24th**: Operation Heart Committee Meeting

Guest Speakers:

**Michael Spira - APhA Senior Lobbyist**

Michael Spira worked on Capitol Hill for ten years. For his last three years on Capitol Hill, Michael served as a Chief of Staff for a Member of Congress from New York. During his time on the Hill, Michael worked on a wide range of issues from financial services where he worked on the Wall Street reform legislation to healthcare and the affordable care act. Michael joined the APhA in 2011 where he is their senior lobbyist; he currently represents the Association on Capitol Hill where he develops and enhances relationships with key policy makers to promote the Association’s priority policies. Michael received both his undergraduate degree in political science and graduate degree in applied politics from American University.

**Deborah DeWitt - Assistant Dean for Policy and Planning at University of Maryland SOP**

Deborah DeWitt joined the University on 9/11 under the former Dean of the School, Dr. David Knapp. In 2003, she was recruited to the President’s Office of Government and Community Affairs where she worked on health policy and higher education issues, and as part of the team that secured funding for the Pharmacy Hall Addition. Two years ago, she rejoined the School of Pharmacy as Dean Eddington’s assistant. A former Army veteran; she earned her undergraduate degree at Old Dominion University in Virginia and her law degree at the University of Baltimore. She is a preceptor for the APEX 418 Leadership & Management rotation in the Dean’s office.

**Rachel Tabakman - Government Affairs Specialist at University of Maryland, Baltimore**

Rachel Tabakman works as a government affairs specialist in UMB’s Office of Government and Community Affairs. She received her B.A. in an interdisciplinary study in communications, law, economics and government from American University and her M.A. in public policy and women’s studies from George Washington University. Prior to joining UMB, Rachel worked for five years as a federal lobbyist at NARAL Pro-Choice America, where she played an active role on monitoring the Affordable Care Act. Her additional professional experiences include managing advocacy and educational programs on Capitol Hill, volunteering on campaigns, and researching and analyzing regulations and health-care related policy issues.

**Mr. Van Wie - MPhA member and owner of Professional Pharmacy**

Mr. Van Wie Graduated from UMD School of Pharmacy in 1988. He has 26 years of experience as a community pharmacist, starting in chain drug store. In 2006, he became owner of Professional Pharmacy, an independent community pharmacy in Rosedale. He has been an active member of Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) since 1988, and is currently a trustee and member of several committees including legislative, membership, outreach and scholarship (chair). Mr. Van Wie is also a member of National Community Pharmacist Association (NCPA) and is currently serving on the Maryland Medicaid DUR Board.
System:
Members who participate in APhA-ASP events such as general body meetings and health fairs will earn membership points. These points will count towards reimbursement for mid-year regional meeting and annual meeting.

Member of the Month:
Nominate someone you think is worthy to be the Member of the Month using the link located in Blackboard or by emailing a paragraph of no more than 125 words to Jane Ching janec@umaryland.edu

Thanksgiving Campaign
Are you a resident of a state that has cosponsors of H.R. 4190? Look for scheduled tabling times and sign a personalized thank you card for your cosponsor. Take a minute to let them know that their support matters and encourage them to reintroduce the legislation in the next Congressional session.

Spread the word about Giving Thanks: Do you know pharmacy school students in states with co-sponsors? Become a Thank You Note Liaison and contact an APhA-ASP chapter in a cosponsor state to encourage them to take up the Thanksgiving Campaign. Please contact Amy Howard akhoward@umaryland.edu if you are interested in working with other chapters to make the Thanksgiving Campaign a national success!

Provider Status
Pharmacists are not currently recognized as health care providers under federal law, despite having rigorous medication education and training as any other health care professional. Pharmacists deserve recognition as valuable members of the healthcare team, and patients deserve access to the unique care we can provide. Add your voice to the collective - Demand Provider Status by: http://bit.ly/1vRFSm3

The majority of voters agree that:
- Pharmacists have the skills and knowledge to do more than just fill prescriptions.
- Pharmacists are “health care providers” even though they do not hold this designation under federal law.
- Pharmacists should be members of a health care team to improve healthcare quality and reduce medication problems.
- Increased responsibilities for pharmacists will reduce healthcare costs.

Sign the Petition
Show Maryland Representatives the importance of supporting legislation that would designate pharmacist as PROVIDERS. This January, look for scheduled tabling times to sign a statewide petition in support of Provider Status. We aim to have as many students and faculty at all three Maryland Schools of Pharmacy sign the petition which will then be hand delivered to Capitol Hill.

Policy and Advocacy
What is policy? A set of ideas or a plan of what to do in particular situations that is agreed upon officially by a group of people, an organization, or a government
What is advocacy? The act of speaking on the behalf of or in support of another person or cause.
Interested in developing a policy resolution that will be presented at the Midyear Regional Meeting and potential Nationals? Interested in getting involved to advocate for provider status? For more information, please contact Amy Howard akhoward@umaryland.edu