



**The Rho Chi Society**

**Annual Chapter Report - 2017**

**Date of report submission:** May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Name of School/College:** University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

**Chapter name and region:** Alpha Omicron, Region II

**Chapter co-advisor's names and e-mail addresses:**

Susan Meyer, PhD (smeyer@pitt.edu)

Susan Skledar, RPh, MPH, FASHP (sjs15@pitt.edu)

**Date delegate's name submitted to Rho Chi:** February 2017

**Past year's officers and e-mail addresses:**

President: Mariah Brown (mab379@pitt.edu)

Vice President: Elizabeth Garcia (eag60@pitt.edu)

Secretary: Abby Meyer (abby.meyer@pitt.edu)

Treasurer: Meredith Sparks (mks70@pitt.edu)

Historian: Olivia Marchionda (omm6@pitt.edu)

**New officers and e-mail addresses for next academic year:**

President: Adam Greenfield (adam.greenfield@pitt.edu)

Vice President: Marissa Waterloo (mgw17@pitt.edu)

Secretary: Jamie Cekada (jlc214@pitt.edu)

Treasurer: Seth Stahl (sws29@pitt.edu)

Historian: Dana Jenkins (danajenkins@pitt.edu)

**Number of Rho Chi PharmD Student Members:**

Class of 2017: 23 members

Class of 2018: 22 members

Class of 2019: 23 members

**Meetings:**

| Date    | Attendance | Agenda  | Action Steps                                      |
|---------|------------|---|---|
| 3-30-16 | 6          | • Incoming officers meeting with past president                   | • Strategic planning for the upcoming school year |
| 8-29-16 | 5          | • Executive Board meeting to plan for upcoming school year events | • Plan fall semester GBMs and other               |

**The Rho Chi Society  
Annual Chapter Report**

|          |    |   | events  |
|----------|----|---|---|
| 9-1-16   | 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss future meetings in fall semester</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Young Professionals Lecture Series with Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS)<br/>*see Appendix 1 for event data</li> <li>• Posters, Professors, and Progress</li> <li>• Dean's Theme discuss</li> <li>• Blood Drive dates</li> <li>• Salvation Army Health Talks</li> <li>• Tutoring chairs reached out to faculty to offer our assistance</li> <li>• Start of business card sale</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin business card sale advertising</li> <li>• Sign-ups for tutoring of specific courses</li> <li>• Brainstorm additional service event ideas</li> <li>• Budget proposal at next GBM</li> </ul> |
| 10-13-16 | 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters, Professors, and Progress discussion</li> <li>• Koch Lecture</li> <li>• Budget proposal</li> <li>• New Salvation Army Health Talk topics</li> <li>• Tutoring: discussion of 3 large review sessions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brainstorming for tutoring opportunities</li> <li>• Prepare for Posters, Professors, and Progress event</li> <li>• Voting on Koch Lecture candidates</li> <li>• Approve budget</li> </ul>        |
| 10-20-16 | 5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Board meeting</li> <li>• Koch Lecture preparation</li> <li>• 2018 Rho Chi Lecture Award nominee</li> <li>• Faculty Advisor Nomination</li> <li>• Induction Ceremony</li> <li>• PLS Auction item ideas</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertising for Posters, Professors, and Progress event</li> <li>• Candidates for faculty inductee at Induction Ceremony</li> <li>• Candidates for Blue Stars Red Carpet award</li> </ul>        |
| 11-10-16 | 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posters, Professors, and Progress wrap-up<br/>*see Appendix 1 for event data</li> <li>• Upcoming December Blood Drive</li> <li>• Next Salvation Army Health Talk event</li> <li>• Tutoring large group sessions schedule</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brainstorming Spring events</li> <li>• Consideration of second sale of business cards</li> <li>• Semester wrap-up</li> </ul>   |
| 1-19-17  | 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter Achievement Award finalist announcement</li> <li>• Donation for PLS Auction for the Grace Lamsam Program for the underserved population</li> <li>• National meeting delegate and alternate delegate selection</li> <li>• Begin nominations for faculty awards for the scholarly contribution and innovations in teaching awards</li> <li>• Begin nominations for faculty inductee</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for Chapter Achievement Award video</li> <li>• Considerations of additions to lab cards</li> <li>• Nominations</li> <li>• Sign-ups for tutoring of specific courses</li> </ul>       |

**The Rho Chi Society  
Annual Chapter Report**

|         |    |   |   |
|---------|----|---|---|
| 2-9-17  | 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voting on new Rho Chi candidates</li> <li>• Voting on faculty awards for scholarly contribution and innovations in teaching</li> <li>• Announcement for Spring blood drive</li> <li>• Announcement of tutoring schedule for spring semester</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for Student Posters and Research event<br/>*see Appendix 1 for event data</li> </ul>                         |
| 3-2-17  | 38 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections for new officers and committee co-chairs</li> <li>• Overview of induction dinner</li> <li>• Start of lab card sale</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin lab card fundraiser advertising</li> </ul>   |
| 3-22-17 | 5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer meeting to debrief the induction ceremony planning and event</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare speeches for faculty award winners</li> </ul>  |
| 4-11-17 | 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with incoming officers to transition leadership responsibilities</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic planning for the upcoming school year</li> <li>• Meet with predecessors and assume responsibilities</li> </ul> |
| 4-13-17 | 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announce receipt of the Chapter Achievement Award!</li> <li>• Debrief from Rho Chi national meeting</li> <li>• Recap of semester events</li> <li>• Discuss application for Blue Stars Red Carpet award</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of lab cards</li> <li>• Transition to next year</li> </ul>  |

**Strategic Planning:**

The Alpha Omicron chapter of the Rho Chi Society holds a strong presence in the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. Therefore, our plan for the 2016-2017 year was to continue the activities that our predecessors began. In addition, we set three goals for 2016-2017, as we continued to further the mission of The Rho Chi Society.

1) Facilitating academic success: The chapter worked to increase our tutoring impact in the school. Our tutoring co-chairs held multiple large group exam review sessions to prepare first and second year student pharmacists for upcoming exams, and many Alpha Omicron members donated their time for individual tutoring. Furthermore, the chapter worked closely with professors to implement a new remediation program, where students receiving grades below a 70% are required to choose an educational method to improve their performance in the class; one option being to meet with a Rho Chi tutor. 2) Advancing interprofessional fellowship: The second goal of the year was to create a large annual lecture open to students in all health schools, in conjunction with Phi Lambda Sigma, to replace a three-part lecture series that was experiencing low attendance and participation. 3) Inviting faculty to membership: The executive board met with our advisors to review membership bylaws so as, to properly induct a professor worthy of membership into The Rho Chi Society.

**Activities:** see Page 6

**Financial/ Budgeting:** See Page 10

The budget for the 2016-2017 school year was presented to the chapter for approval on 10/13/2016, and approved by majority vote.

### **Initiation Function:**

The initiation ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 21st, 2017 at the University Club, which is a prestigious, centrally located building on the Pitt campus. The ceremony was held in conjunction with our School of Pharmacy's Beta Delta chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma. This year, 23 second-year student pharmacists were inducted into the chapter, along with an associate professor from the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. In total, there were 100 guests in attendance at the ceremony. Dean Patricia Kroboth gave the opening remarks, and Dr. William Shrank, Chief Medical Officer in the UPMC Health Plan Division, offered his remarks as well. Dr. Shrank delivered the 61st Annual Julius A. Koch Memorial Lecture the following day. The annual faculty awards for Innovation in Teaching and Outstanding Scholarly Contribution were presented to Dr. Michael A. Shullo and Dr. Phillip Empey, respectively.

### **Evaluation/Reflection:**

As the multitude of student organizations within the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy continue to grow, it is important for our Alpha Omicron chapter of The Rho Chi Society to frequently assess our own activities and outreach to make sure we are aligned with the mission of the Rho Chi Society, are effectively impacting our pharmacy school, and are improving the chapter.

We hosted the first annual Young Professionals Lecture, in conjunction with the school's Beta Delta Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma. It was an evening lecture that had over 80 students from the various health science schools in attendance and several professors from the School of Pharmacy. The lecture was given by Dr. Jim Withers, MD, who is the founder and director of Operation Safety Net, an organization providing medical care to the homeless population of Pittsburgh, and he was a Top Ten CNN Hero of 2015. The lecture sought to contribute to the development of intellectual leaders and foster collaboration amongst the healthcare fields. The new 2017-2018 executive board plans on holding the lecture again, and trying to reach a greater number of health science students.

The Rho Chi tutoring program was able to reach over 200 students this year through individual sessions, group exam reviews, and assistance with the remediation program. Several professors recognized the unique advantage that peer-to-peer tutoring can provide, and utilized our chapter members to assist students that needed extra help. Additionally, we advertised our free tutoring services at the annual Back to School Picnic, where first year pharmacy students learn about all the organizations within the school.

Our two annual fundraisers, business cards and lab cards, were successful. The funds that we raise are given back to our chapter to further the mission of the Society. Many students appreciate the business cards, especially in their third and fourth professional years, as they increase their networking at conferences and job fairs. This year a medical Spanish vocabulary lab card was added to the collection of lab cards, as our chapter members saw this was a need.

We effectively continued the 'Posters, Professors, and Progress' event, where sixteen professors presented key findings from their research in a round-robin style. Students enjoy seeing how our School of Pharmacy professors are advancing the profession, and this event is an opportunity for students to get involved with professors' research. Similarly, we held the annual Student Poster Event in the spring semester, where fifteen students presented posters that they

**The Rho Chi Society**  
**Annual Chapter Report**

had made over the past year from their research with professors. Both events stimulate critical inquiry and enhance collaboration amongst peers and faculty.

It has been an honor to serve as President of the Alpha Omicron chapter over this past school year. I have enjoyed working closely with both our advisors and the members to better the chapter and uphold the unique presence that we have in our School of Pharmacy. Serving as our chapter delegate at the Rho Chi National Meeting was an additional honor, and I was humbled to accept the National Chapter Achievement Award on behalf of our chapter and the hard work of the previous year's members. I have great trust in the incoming 2017-2018 executive board and all of the members, and I am confident that our chapter will continue to flourish.

**Other information:**



## The Rho Chi Society

### Appendix 1

#### Chapter Activities Report Template

| Alpha Omicron, University of Pittsburgh Activity Table |  |  |   |                                      |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Category of Activity                                   | Title of Activity                            | Brief Description  | How Does This Activity Align With the Rho Chi Mission Statement?  | Years the Activity has Been Ongoing? | If Activity has Been Ongoing for >1 Year, What Evaluations Have Been Done to Assess the Success of the Activity and What Improvements Have Been Done Over the Past Year? | How Many Members Participated in the Activity? | How Many Students (non-members) and/or Patients were impacted by the Activity? | Financial Information for the Activity [Budget Required, Fundraising Amount] |
| Intellectual Leadership Activities                     | Posters, Professors, and Progress            | 16 faculty members presented research posters as a showcase of scholarly work and potential student projects             | Instilled the desire to pursue intellectual excellence and critical inquiry as students were able to connect with professors and participate in their research. | 4                                    | Increased advertising, feedback solicited in the form of surveys, advanced planning, refreshments to encourage attendance  | 22   | ~60  | \$200  |
| Intellectual Leadership Activities                     | Students, Special Topics, and Scholarly Work | 15 students presented their research posters as a showcase of student scholarly work and opportunity to receive feedback | Encouraged and recognized intellectual achievement and critical inquiry by seeing peers present scholarly work  | 2                                    | More formal with posters, feedback solicited in the form of surveys, multimedia, refreshments to encourage attendance, and peer evaluation for awards                    | 22   | ~40  | \$250  |

**The Rho Chi Society  
Annual Chapter Report**

|                                    |   |  |  |                         |  |    |      |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------|--|----|------|--|
| Intellectual Leadership Activities | Rho Chi/PLS Professional Lecture Series: 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Young Professionals Lecture | School of Pharmacy   | Fosters collaboration between Rho Chi and PLS and contributes to development of intellectual leaders through lectures                | 2                       | Met with PLS leadership to redesign the lecture series. Planned one yearly lecture to be publicized throughout the University              | 20 | ~80  | \$1500   |
| Intellectual Leadership Activities | 61 <sup>st</sup> Annual Julius A. Koch Memorial Lecture                                     | To promote the advancement of pharmaceutical sciences through the encouragement and recognition of intellectual scholarship      | Recognizes the intellectual achievement in the pharmaceutical sciences, thus stimulating critical inquiry and development of leaders | 61 <sup>st</sup> annual | In addition to attendance, feedback is solicited from Rho Chi members in attendance and informally from students and faculty in attendance | 14 | ~100 | \$800 (budget for associated induction ceremony) |
| Intellectual Leadership Activities | Outstanding Scholarly Work Travel Award   | To enable Rho Chi members with meritorious work to present their scholarly contributions at a national or international meeting. | Encourages and recognizes intellectual achievement by promoting presentation of scholarly work at national conferences               | 2                       | Review interest and financial sustainability after inaugural year  | 6  | 0    | \$2,000  |
| College of Pharmacy Events         | Rho Chi Faculty Awards: Innovations in Teaching and Scholarly Contribution                  | To recognize faculty for novel teaching and for scholarly contributions  | Recognizes intellectual achievement to stimulate critical inquiry among students   | 12                      | Improvements include allowing co-recipients that are equally deserving   | 2  | 0    | \$800 (budget for associated induction ceremony) |

**The Rho Chi Society  
Annual Chapter Report**

|  |  |  |  |            |   |                |  |       |
|--|--|--|--|------------|---|----------------|--|-------|
| College of Pharmacy Events                 | Rho Chi: Faculty Member Induction                      | To recognize and induct a faculty member who has demonstrated the values of the Rho Chi Society and meets the criteria for induction by the national bylaws of Rho Chi | Recognizes intellectual achievement to stimulate critical inquiry both in the classroom and through clinical practice.         | <b>NEW</b> |   | 1              | 0                                      | 0     |
| College of Pharmacy Events                 | New Student Orientation Presentation                   | Introduce Rho Chi to incoming professional students and describe our vision, mission, and the activities at our school   | Emphasizes and instills the desire to pursue intellectual excellence in incoming student pharmacists to develop future leaders | 4          | Created a poster with pictures and descriptions of annual events and sponsor a table at the School of Pharmacy Back to School Picnic to raise awareness of Rho Chi especially among first year students | 5              | 114 (first year professional students) | 0     |
| College of Pharmacy Events                 | Phi Lambda Sigma Grace Lamsam Charity Auction Donation | School of Pharmacy fundraiser for underserved clinic   | Promotes the highest ethical standards in health equality and fosters collaboration with PLS                                   | 5          | Brainstorming of creative and intellectual donations that can maximize the amount raised at auction for charity   | Entire chapter | N/A                                    | \$250 |
| Patient Outreach Events/ Community Service | Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center Health Talks      | Provide health education to members of rehabilitation program monthly  | Promotes highest ethical standards in health promotion and fosters collaboration with Salvation Army                           | 10         | Created new topics based on suggestions and feedback from the director of the program and increased member participation.   | 16             | >100                                   | \$75  |
| Fundraising Events                         | Custom business cards                                  | Custom business cards for student pharmacists  | Contributes to the development of intellectual leaders by fostering  | 5          | Evaluated the number of sales and the profit margin on the business cards which were both deemed  | N/A            |  | \$275 |



**The Rho Chi Society  
Annual Chapter Report**

|                       |   |  |  |   |   |     |     |       |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|---|---|-----|-----|-------|
|                       |   |  | collaboration/<br>networking and<br>professional<br>development  |   | appropriate   |     |     |       |
| Fundraising<br>Events | Pocket<br>laboratory<br>reference cards | Pocket reference<br>cards to help<br>students be better<br>equipped in class,<br>practica, and on<br>rotations | Stimulates critical<br>inquiry and<br>intellectual<br>achievement by<br>equipping student<br>pharmacists with<br>reference materials | 5 | Evaluated cards that can be<br>added that were not present<br>in old card set, including<br>Spanish translations for<br>medical terms, and updated<br>the cards with new<br>guidelines with faculty<br>review | N/A | ~60 | \$525 |

## **Appendix 2**

### Income

| <b>Item</b>                        | <b>Amount (\$)</b> | <b>Comments</b>                              |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Allocation from School of Pharmacy | 4200               |  |
| Initiation deposits                | 4060               | National dues and initiation dinner deposits |
| Business Card Sale                 | 274.62             | Fall semester fundraiser                     |
| Lab Card Sale                      | 520                | Spring semester fundraiser                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                | <b>9054.62</b>     |  |

### Expenses

| <b>Item</b>   | <b>Amount (\$)</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Travel to Rho Chi National Meeting                        | 2000               | Partial reimbursement provided for all 6 Rho Chi – Alpha Omicron members attending the national meeting |
| Initiation Banquet Hall and Dinner                        | 2972               | Initiates and guests  |
| National Dues and insignia                                | 1560               | 23 initiates + 1 faculty initiate   |
| General Body Meetings                                     | 418.10             | Food for general body meetings  |
| PLS auction donation                                      | 245                | Money from auction used to raise \$ for Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program for the Underserved               |
| Posters, Professors, and Progress                         | 191.02             | Food, drinks, and advertising   |
| Students, Special Topics, and Scholarly Work              | 253.22             | Food, drinks, and advertising   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Young Professionals Lecture Series | 138.39             | Jim Withers   |
| Tutoring Chairs   | 213.08             | Food at review sessions   |

**The Rho Chi Society  
Annual Chapter Report**

|   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| Service Chairs                          | 74.33          | Supplies   |
| Contingency Funds                       | 33.02          | Food for E-board transition meeting and<br>Chapter Achievement Award Celebration |
| T-shirts (paid for next years<br>class) | 340**          | Chapter t-shirts to wear at Rho Chi events                                       |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                   | <b>8438.16</b> |  |