

## **Annual Chapter Report Outline**

Please complete your Annual Chapter Report and submit to the National Office by May 15.

**Date of report submission:** 2018-05-14

**Name of School/College:** Western New England University College of Pharmacy

**Chapter Name & region:** Epsilon Iota Chapter in Region I

**Delegate who attended the Rho Chi Annual Meeting:** Maria Hysolli

**Date Delegate's name submitted:** 2018-02-20

Past year's officers and e-mail addresses

President

First Name  
Maria

Last Name  
Hysolli

Email  
[maria.hysolli@wne.edu](mailto:maria.hysolli@wne.edu)

Vice President

First Name  
Mark

Last Name  
Baker

Email  
[mark.baker@wne.edu](mailto:mark.baker@wne.edu)

Secretary

First Name  
Brandon

Last Name  
Opitz

Email

[brandon.opitz@wne.edu](mailto:brandon.opitz@wne.edu)

Treasurer

First Name

Michael

Last Name

Costa

Email

[michael.costal@wne.edu](mailto:michael.costal@wne.edu)

Historian

First Name

Allissa

Last Name

Long

Email

[allissa.long@wne.edu](mailto:allissa.long@wne.edu)

New officers and e-mail addresses for next academic year

(If not yet elected, please indicate date of anticipated election and report names within one week of election)

2019-10-01

New officers and e-mail addresses

President

First Name

Last Name

Email

Vice President

First Name

Last Name

Baker

Email

Secretary

First Name

Last Name

Email

Treasurer

First Name

Last Name

Email

Historian

First Name

Last Name

Email

Chapter advisor's name and e-mail address

First Name

Marissa

Last Name

Ostroff

Email

[marissa.ostroff@wne.edu](mailto:marissa.ostroff@wne.edu)

**Chapter advisor's name and e-mail address**

[chapter-advisors]

## **Introduction**

The new members of the Epsilon Iota chapter of Rho Chi were inducted on October 2, 2018. At that point the chapter had 27 members total.

**Meetings** Please provide information on meetings held in the following tabular format

Date	Attendance	Agenda	Action Steps
2017-10-17	Dr. Ostroff, Maria Hysolli, Mark Baker, Brandon Opitz, Michael Costa, Allissa Long	Planned details for “IPC Tip session” for PY2s; discussed potential brown bag event; planned how to write and then distribute counseling pearls for top drugs; discussed online Kodiak classroom for Rho Chi; reviewed officers’ roles	Historian will create the Kodiak classroom and update Facebook page; each member will think of community service ideas
2017-11-28	full chapter meeting	Reviewed and discussed chapter bylaws; assigned members specific drugs and timeline for counseling pearls; selected date for “IPC Tips” session; discussed potential date and location of brown bag event	Research information for counseling pearls; review and update PowerPoint for “IPC Tips” presentation
2018-03-27	Maria Hysolli, Mark Baker, Brandon Opitz, Michael Costa, Allissa Long	Discussed changes to bylaws; planned participation at school health fair; discussed details from national meeting; discussed participation in Out of the Darkness Walk; planned stole order	Sign up for the various community service events; prepare materials needed for health fair
2018-04-05	Maria Hysolli, Mark Baker, Brandon Opitz, Michael Costa, Allissa Long	Began planning the next induction; further discussed upcoming health fair and walk; discussed details regarding a potential joint “Get to Know Us” event with Rho Chi and PLS	Finalize materials for health fair and walk; get more information from members regarding stole order

**Strategic Planning:** What goals were set that relate to the Rho Chi mission?

The Chapter’s mission is to recognize and encourage intellectual achievement and high standards of moral character. Our Chapter strived to instill this in others throughout the College of Pharmacy. One goal was to instill the desire to achieve and promote success in academics throughout their pharmacy career. We did this by putting on a Rho Chi IPC Tips presentation where we discussed helpful study strategies and ways to best approach the material in their upcoming therapeutics courses. At this session, we also answered any questions and addressed any concerns that the learners had about their upcoming classes. With some extra preparation, we thought the learners would have more academic success in the challenging therapeutics courses. The Chapter also encourages professional contact and advocates for continued personal and professional growth. This goal was achieved by providing pharmacy-related information to those who attended the health fair, where we were able to also talk with other professional organizations and learn from them. Personal and professional growth were also encouraged at the Out of the Darkness walk, where Rho Chi learners showed their support for those struggling with mental illness in an attempt to change the negative stigma regarding mental health and also

change the way the pharmacy field approaches the treatment of mental health disorders by raising awareness.

## **Activities**

Since this was only the second full year that the Epsilon Iota Chapter of the Rho Chi Society was active at Western New England University, the chapter's goal was to continue and expand upon activities that were successful in the past as well as develop new events and activities for the years to come. On January 19, 2018, the chapter continued the annual session of IPC Tips that was established during the chapter's first year on campus. During this event, members from our chapter gave a PowerPoint presentation for the second year pharmacy learners regarding how to best approach their IPC & PM (therapeutics) courses. Rho Chi members discussed strategies that had and had not worked for them thus far in their own experiences and shared advice on how to best study for these courses. At the end of the presentation, the second year learners were given the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have had. Last year, the members of the chapter started a counseling pearls email program on the top drugs to help all learners familiarize themselves with the most common drugs as well as to hopefully teach them key points regarding each drug. To do this, we first caught up all of the new first year pharmacy learners by sending them all of the counseling pearls that were distributed before their arrival to the College of Pharmacy. Each member of Rho Chi was given specific drugs to research and submit in order to keep releasing counseling pearls for new drugs without having any repetition. Once all of this information was gathered, it was proofread and prepared to send out to all of the learners in the College of Pharmacy throughout the upcoming semester. It will now be the responsibility of the future officers and members to continue this program by researching information on different drugs. Beyond academic activities, our chapter also participated in community services activities for both the betterment of the community and the practice of pharmacy. On April 8, 2018, Rho Chi members hosted a table at the school-wide health fair with a poster about over the counter medication safety. During this event, chapter members educated the public on how to read a over the counter medication label, how to store it and how to seek help if it falls into the hands of high risk populations like children. Rho Chi members also participated in a community-wide Out of the Darkness Walk to help address the stigma surrounding mental health. This is important for those who currently are, who know someone who is, or who may have already lost someone to the struggle of mental illness. With Rho Chi's participation in this event, it shows the community that the upcoming pharmacists consider mental health a priority and want to change the way its treatment is approached so it can stop being stigmatized as a negative thing compared to other disease states. The chapter will also be placing our order for graduation stoles containing the Rho Chi symbol so that we can spread awareness and pride of Rho Chi's Epsilon Iota Chapter at Western New England University.

## **Financial Budgeting**

As our chapter is relatively new to the society, the first year's budget was determined primarily on the amounts of money that were spent during the prior year on similar events. Then, the budget and money in the account was carried over from the first year into our second year as a starting point. The first year officers offered their records about expenses related to certain activities so that we could use those figures as a way to gauge our budget for this year. We

adopted a ledger devised by the last year's officers to track money flow in and out of our accounts, so that it may be more easily displayed to members and advisors. This year, most of the events that our chapter participated in did not require spending much money on materials; however, prior to each event, the potential costs were discussed amongst the executive board members to ensure the budget was kept in mind when buying any necessary supplies. Since last year's induction charged admittance prices for family and friends with a margin such that funds could be raised for the organization as a profit, we plan to continue that for this year's upcoming induction ceremony. Aside from travel reimbursement, our chapter does not spend a significant amount of money, so significant fundraising was forgone this year. The chapter members have spent time brainstorming novel fundraising ideas, but these will need to be implemented by the members of next year's chapter depending on their expenses.

### **Installation Function**

The induction ceremony was held on October 2, 2017 at the Munich Haus restaurant in Chicopee, MA. Those in attendance included the newly inducted Rho Chi members, the five officers from the previous year, our advisor Dr. Marissa Ostroff and other faculty members who are also Rho Chi members. Additionally, family and friends of the inductees who paid for their admittance were welcome to come and enjoy the experience. Dean Evan Robinson, the Dean and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, spoke at the induction ceremony to congratulate all new members and thank the chapter for inducting him as a faculty inductee. The ceremony allowed each Rho Chi executive board member, as well as our advisor, to talk as part of the induction and the inductees' names were read as they were called up one by one for their induction. Since it has been successful and well-received, we plan on having our upcoming induction ceremony on October 1, 2018 at the same location, Munich Haus

### **Evaluation/Reflection**

The new programs that we organized and hosted this year were successful, but there is always room for improvement. We tried to continue to build on the events that were successful in the prior year, while also attempting to create some innovative events and activities to continue to allow our Rho Chi chapter to grow. The previous year's officers discussed with us some of the challenges they faced when planning events so that we could hopefully avoid them. For example, they explained that they had some scheduling complications while hosting the IPC Tips event and had to host it on two different days, one of which overlapped with the time of an elective class and limited attendance. Learning from that, we started planning this event much earlier on in the year so that we could be sure to plan it for a time where all second year learners could attend if they wanted to. Thus, we only had it on one day and gave one presentation which was accessible to all second year learners. The Rho Chi Counseling pearls received excellent feedback from multiple administrators, professors, and students, so we made sure to continue that process for this year as well. The goal is to continue building on a list of counseling pearls for the top drugs so that learners will become familiar with some of the most important information. However, there was some difficulty at first figuring out how to organize this process and how to pick up where the past members left off. It took some time to organize which member was going to research which drug and what the proofreading process would be like, but

with enough discussed it seemed to run smoothly for all Rho Chi members. One struggle for the chapter this year was the organization of a brown bag event. While we had discussions early on in the year about planning this, it just did not work out. It took us some time to find a time and a site that would work for many members, but we eventually did plan it. Unfortunately, there was a snow storm on that day and the event was canceled and was not able to be rescheduled based on the availability of the site and the members' schedules. We would suggest that future members plan this event in advance as well, since it was well-received by those who attended it the first year it was held. As the previous offers said, the seniors enjoyed getting handouts or anything to take with them, so in the future each station can offer something such as a simple food log or stress ball. Overall, this was a successful year for our chapter and it cannot be denied that part of the success is definitely owed to all of the hard work of our general body members, executive board members, and advisor.

### **Other Information**

not available