



CAPSI • ACEIP

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022

Canadian Association of Pharmacy  
Students and Interns

Prepared by  
**William Boudreau**

# Past-President Address

The CAPSI's Annual Report is an opportunity to review what has been accomplished for pharmacy students throughout the year.

2022 has been an unusual year marked with the continued COVID-19 mitigation measures. However, it has also been marked by the progressive return of many CAPSI initiatives with the safe in-person opportunities that happened closer to the end of it. We finally got to **reconnect in-person!**

2022 was a landmark year for major upcoming events such as the 2024 IPSF World Congress and the in-person PDW2023 in Saskatoon. Updates on our website were made including the "**CAPSI corner**", our newest membership portal. We ran another IPSF Health Campaign on Medication Awareness across Canada.

As CAPSI thrives to offer the best pharmacy-university experience across the country, you'll find in the next few pages a quick review of the most important accomplishments of your National Association.

Happy reading,



**William Boudreau**  
**CAPSI's 2022-2023**  
**Past-President**



# CAPSI NATIONAL



The Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) is operated by 36 pharmacy students across the country. Each of the 10 schools of Pharmacy is represented by a Junior and a Senior CAPSI Local Representative. The executive council includes 16 elected members which include a few outgoing position holders that aid with stability purposes.

*Find out more about all of your  
representatives at  
<https://capsi.ca/current-council/>*

# ADVOCACY

CAPSI is the voice of **over 4500 pharmacy students** across the country. We address local and national issues and advocate for our profession with stakeholders.

As such, CAPSI National conducted the **Student Wellness Survey**. Its results have guided specific local recommendations and was brought up with each Faculty across the country to establish a plan of action to support the university experience of all students.

CAPSI worked closely in collaboration with **CPhA** to release the **Student Loan Forgiveness Letter**. It has been presented to the Federal government to encourage rural practice while reducing financial constraints on new graduates. Students joined CPhA on calls with members of parliament to advocate for this initiative.



Hon. Carla Qualtrough  
Minister of Employment  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
Sent via email: [carla.qualtrough@parl.gc.ca](mailto:carla.qualtrough@parl.gc.ca)

June 3, 2022

Dear Minister Qualtrough,

We are writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) and the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) in support of the federal government's commitment in Budget 2022 to expand the current list of eligible professionals under the Student Loan Forgiveness Program for those who choose to work in rural and remote areas. We were encouraged that pharmacists were included in the liberal election platform and we would like to urge the government to incorporate both licensed pharmacists and pharmacists in an approved residency program as part of this expansion.

Pharmacists are known as the most accessible health-care providers in Canada, working in community pharmacies, hospitals and primary care settings throughout the country. The pandemic has reaffirmed the importance of the profession in increasing access to health services for Canadians. Unfortunately, disproportionate access to primary health-care services in rural and remote communities continues to disadvantage over 6 million Canadian residents, including indigenous peoples (1). Inadequate health services coupled with geographic isolation can lead to significant adverse effects on the health of the community. While a large part of the problem stems from a shortage of health providers, the retention of staff is equally critical and remains a challenge (2,3). Although the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program aims to address these gaps in care, its benefits are currently limited to physicians and nurses and does not recognize the growing body of evidence that supports interprofessional care (4,5,6,7).

**Pharmacists' Impact on Primary Health Care**

Over the past decade, the scope of practice for pharmacists has increased significantly to include prescribing authority, point-of-care testing, ordering and interpreting lab tests, administering injections, renewing and adapting prescriptions and much more depending on the province. Pharmacists also play a role in disease prevention and screening. An Abacus survey from 2016 reveals that two-thirds of Canadians list pharmacists in their top three most important sources of information with regards to medications and health in general. When it comes to seeking advice on therapy, managing common ailments or chronic health conditions, a strong majority of Canadians expressed comparable levels of trust for pharmacists as with physicians and nurses (8).

In many rural and remote communities, pharmacies are often the only accessible points of care, and our patients rely on our expertise and services to keep their communities healthy. Unfortunately, recruiting and retaining pharmacy professionals to practice in these areas is often a challenge. The challenges are exacerbated by an inconsistent inter-provincial scope of practice, meaning that newer graduates who have been educated and trained to practice to the fullest scope, like in Alberta, may have difficulty choosing a place to practice that is more northern and remote. For example, most territories are far



**"PROVIDE A VOICE FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS AND INTERNS"**

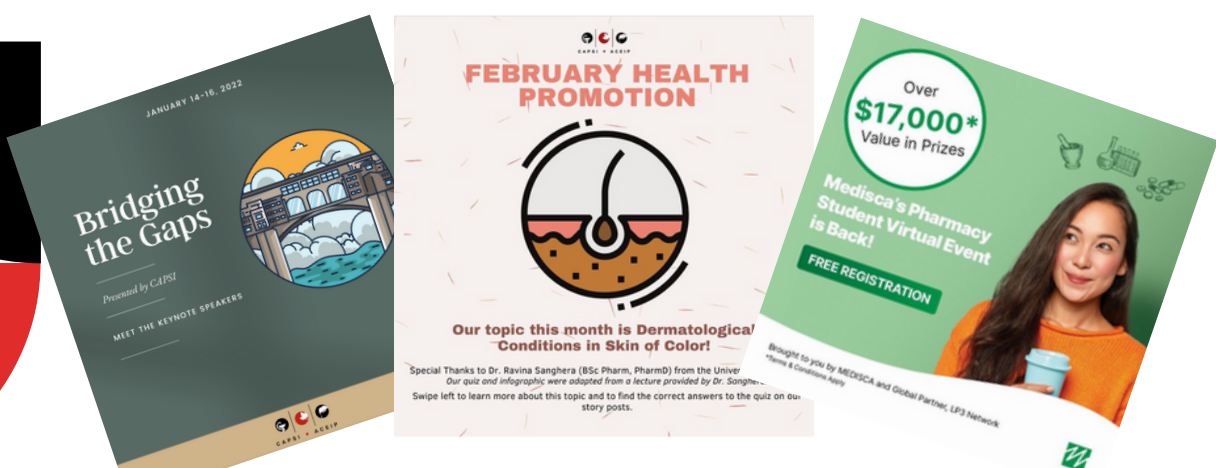
# ACADEMICS

Unfortunately, Professional Development Week (PDW) was postponed in 2022 as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

However, we had the chance to reinvent a new national event: **Bridging the Gaps**. Throughout this online conference, students across the country were able to learn more on topics often not discussed in current curricula. Specialists on various topics presented on: Gender-affirming hormone therapy, Pharmacogenetics, Trauma-informed care and more!

The **Health initiative** was also continued this year. This project aims to educate pharmacy students and the public about various health topics such as: the presentation of dermatological conditions on various skin colours, vaccinations, toxidrome and more!

Many talks were also hosted on a national level and by our local representatives at their respective schools!



**"FACILITATE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS AND INTERNS"**

# EXCELLENCE

Our **national awards and competitions** are an opportunity to develop valuable skills for students. It also aims to recognize the excellence of outstanding students. You can find out about our winners by visiting our social media pages on Facebook (CAPSI-ACEIP) and Instagram (@CAPSINational).

2022 marked the return of the Translation award and the Evidence-Based Practice Competition! They respectively aim to recognize the hard work of individuals for their contribution to CAPSI documents to maintain its bilingualism and to recognize the teamwork and solution on a complex hospital case. You can find out more on our website [here](#).



**"INSPIRE PHARMACY STUDENTS AND INTERNS TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS"**

# PROFESSIONALISM

CAPSI thrives on the importance of the development of skills expected of a professional which includes leadership, teamwork, communication, time management and more.

As such, the National Council of CAPSI attended the **CPhA conference**. The presence of the association was marked by its participation in the sessions and the representation of the student body on a panel about workforce wellness .

A few CAPSI students also represented the student body on CPhA's Pharmacy Wellness Task Force and CPhA's National PAM planning committee. Discussions with various stakeholders have been continued this year.



***"EXEMPLIFY THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AS SET BY THE REGULATED PROFESSION OF PHARMACY"***

# UNITY

To maintain good communication within the Student community the "**Chats with Chris**" initiative was launched in Fall 2022. Virtual office hours were opened with the opportunity to have one on one discussion with the current CAPSI President, Christine Vaccaro to ensure students' concerns and priorities are well heard.

The **Mentorship Program** has returned stronger than ever with the fabulous work of its mentorship officers Lynn D'Souza, Sarah Fallis, Kristy Wong, and Pooja Patel. Students from different schools were connected to a personalized mentor to receive guidance and to connect throughout their pharmacy journey.

CAPSI also stayed connected to the **University of Ottawa** to give some input on the student perspective for the exciting and upcoming Pharmacy program in Ottawa.

CAPSI reconnected with the **Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP)** and the **Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (AFPC)**.



**"CREATE A NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PHARMACY STUDENTS AND INTERNS"**



# Thank you to our generous sponsors

CAPSI promotes advocacy, academics, excellence, professionalism and unity to offer an enhanced pharmacy school experience for its members. We wouldn't be able to accomplish this without the help of our sponsors. Let's take a moment to thank our long-term partners and to welcome our new 2022 sponsors :

## New in 2022



## Longterm partners



# CAPSIL

Want to know more about the actuality of pharmacy?  
Visit the latest 2022 Canadian Association of Pharmacy  
Students and Interns Letter (CAPSIL) [here](#).

