



"When I first found out I was going to attend the Education Conference in San Diego, CA I was overcome with excitement because I was going to be surrounded by some of the best compounders and pharmacists in the country. But nothing could prepare me for the experience and many connections I would make upon leaving.

I traveled across the country from South Carolina College of Pharmacy-USC campus to San Diego and all the arrangements for my hotel and accommodations were in place thanks to the IACP Foundation. Meetings started the following morning where all the students were treated as special guests. At the welcome reception, I was able to meet up with a couple of my preceptors for my upcoming P4 year and even met an alumni from my pharmacy school, who I have sense kept in touch with. During this conference, I was able to connect with several compounding pharmacists who I have had communications with prior or whom I had found connections with.

All of the students were invited to special events outside of the conference where we were welcomed with warm hearts, special introductions, and even a time to give a last-minute speech. By the end of the conference I left with several business cards and invitations to visit pharmacies in other states close to me on the east coast. I could not have imagined all of the connections I made and how it has continued to help me grow as a future compounding pharmacist and person.

Since then I was able to attend CCH thanks to a sponsorship from Doug Yoch, the alumni from my school I met at Edu Con. My mentors, Lisa and Jay Ashworth and Jennifer Petska, from Edu Con were also there and I enjoyed catching up with them. After attending both conference I have seen all the hard work the IACP Foundation puts in to helping students attend these meetings and how excited all the pharmacists are to have students who are interested in the cause and wish to see compounding prosper. IACP is an organization I continue to be involved with as a student and look forward to the transition of becoming a pharmacist member upon graduation in May 2018."

Kristen Spoon
PharmD Candidate 2018
South Carolina College of Pharmacy-USC Campus

"The best decision I ever made was to apply for the Fund-the-Future student travel grant to attend IACP's 2017 Educational Conference. Having this experience exposed me to a variety of career options that I had previously been unaware of, including veterinary pharmacy, compounding, and association management. The conference provided me the opportunity to network with professionals who have been vital to my professional development. Throughout all the meetings, presentations, and events there was never a dull moment. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to attend one of IACP's conferences and I encourage anyone who has an interest in independent pharmacy or compounding to apply!"

Alexandria Gochenauer
PharmD Candidate 2019
The University of Mississippi College of Pharmacy

“In pharmacy school, attending conferences can be intimidating. They are often expensive and you might not always know someone else who is going. Thanks to the IACP Foundations Fund the Future travel grant I was able to experience an amazing conference and learn so much about the compounding world. This was an absolutely amazing experience. We got to sit in on board meetings, mix and mingle with current compounding pharmacists from all of the United States and get a new perspective from the diverse list of continuing education classes offered. My favorite part about this experience was that all of the members made me as well as the other travel grant recipients feel very welcome and included! I made more connections with pharmacists at this conference than any other conference I have attended. I am forever grateful that IACP truly cares about student pharmacists!”

April Sartin
Pharm D. Candidate 2019
UNM College of Pharmacy

“As an IACP Compounder's on Capitol Hill scholarship recipient, I was able to have one of the most unique experiences of my student career. Compounding pharmacy has always been very near and dear to my heart and I knew at the time of attending the conference that it was the career path I would be pursuing. Attending Compounder's on Capitol Hill allowed me to become engaged with the issues that would be impacting my career directly and in which my voice would need to be heard. The meetings I had with congress members and senators on Capitol Hill was be an experience I will never forget. It truly lit a fire within me to become involved in compliance and policy issues to and stay abreast of constantly changing jurisdiction. I look forward to returning to Compounder's on Capitol Hill in the future as a colleague and speaking with future scholarship recipients to try to make sure that they understand how important it is that they make their voices heard to protect the profession.”

Dena Westphalen
PharmD Candidate, 2016
Creighton University, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

“As a recipient of the “Fund the Future” scholarship, I was granted access to an incredible event. The Education Conference served an invaluable role in my professional growth. First, IACP and the IACP Foundation Board of Directors offered transparency by allowing me to sit in and hear the operations of an established organization. From this, I was able to absorb and take back ideas to my own organization with regards to operations.

The conference itself had an excellent panel of speakers. The topics discussed were topics that are currently part of my curriculum and therefore, were easy to follow. It was interesting to hear how topics were uniquely tweaked to cater to the compounding-industry. Lastly, the entire event served as an excellent networking event. I developed important relationships with potential employers and learned a great deal from independent pharmacists around the country. I left with a rejuvenated enthusiasm for my profession!”

Christine Borunda
PharmD Candidate, 2020
The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy

“My name is Ralph Galega a pharmacy student at the University of Texas College of Pharmacy. I was very honored to receive the opportunity to be a Fund the Future Student for IACP and attend the EduCon 2018. This was a very edifying experience because I was very fortunate to sit at the table and chime in on important discussion topics that affect the pharmacy profession. In addition, the networking experience was not only a one-way street like I have had in the past. The pharmacist and residents I met took the effort to get to know me, which made me feel included and part of the team. It was one of the best experiences I have had in my pharmacy educational career and I will greatly recommend this opportunity to any/every student who is eager to learn and keep up with the continuous evolvement of our profession.”

Ralph Galega, MSc.
PharmD Candidate, 2019
The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy

“I greatly appreciated the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful event. It has proven to be a very valuable experience. This exposure to the field of compounding pharmacy has provided me with learning and networking opportunities I would not have had otherwise. I am very fortunate to have been a beneficiary of the IACP Foundation’s commitment to students and the future of pharmacy. CCH has motivated me to have greater involvement in being an advocate for the future of our profession.”

Ernest Aquilar
PharmD Candidate, 2018
Texas Tech University

“Thank you all for your generosity in funding the Compounders on Capitol Hill Student Pharmacist Travel Grant. I was honored to receive the travel grant and am grateful for all the opportunities it has already provided me. Experiences such as this truly increase student involvement in the profession. I had a wonderful time at CCH and I am excited to continue my involvement with IACP and IACPF in the future.”

Alexandria Gochenauer
PharmD Candidate 2019
The University of Mississippi College of Pharmacy

“Attending this conference was an eye-opening experience for me. I sat in on board meetings to learn how the IACP Foundation operates, sat in on educational sessions ranging from pharmacogenomics to USP changes, met with leaders of the compounding community as well as experts in lab analysis, and even had dinner with a US Congressman! The conference exposed me to areas of pharmacy not normally discussed such as veterinary practice and compliance consultation. Although there were many great sessions, the most profound lecture I attended was on the “Development of a Second Victims Program” by Eric Cropp. His discussion brought to light the impact of medication errors on the pharmacist who made it and the other medical professionals involved in the error. His presentation truly emphasized the importance of advocating for our profession and creating a support network for pharmacists. Overall, this experience motivated me to continue to learn and advocate for our profession. Everyone should try to attend conferences as the experience is invaluable.”

Elio Magero
PharmD Candidate 2021
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

“My name is Omar Fuentes, and I am a P3 at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. I was very fortunate to receive the IACP Fund-the-Future Scholarship and attend the IACP educational conference in Fort Lauderdale in January 2019.

My experience at this conference surpassed my expectations. From the application process to the final remarks at the conference, IACP ensured that the students were learning and developing as professionals. I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to meet and network with some of the brightest minds in the compounding industry. It was inspiring to witness the dedication and passion of IACP and its members to continue to grow our profession while protecting access of compounding to patients. It was empowering to learn how policy affects our profession, and to learn how we as pharmacy students can contribute to preserve IACP’s mission.

In addition, the IACP/IACPF members were incredibly hospitable and provided an inviting environment throughout the entire conference. Everyone at the conference was willing to support students as they become future pharmacists. The resources that IACP offered during and after the conference has opened a world of opportunities for me. I’m sure that IACP will continue to open doors for me and other students to help us succeed in our profession.

I encourage pharmacy students to attend the IACP conferences and become advocates for our profession. The mentorship, advice and conversations I experience at this conference are invaluable.”

Omar Fuentes
PharmD Candidate 2020
University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy