

Supporting you through your learning, training and career



#PDAstudent



Welcome to the January 2023 PDA Student Newsletter

In this edition, read about upcoming PDA activities and events and the PDA's presence at the GFTU's Young Members Development Weekend. Also, read about the winner of the Welsh Pharmacy Student Leadership Award and their pharmacy journey.

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Getting involved: upcoming activities and events

Take part in the PDA Student Wellbeing Survey

At the PDA, we recognise the importance of supporting pharmacy students throughout the MPharm.

We offer MPharm students free PDA membership giving them access to independent support and advice as well as indemnity insurance for placements and work. We also have trained PDA Student Reps within universities who raise issues and support members on the ground.

Your PDA Student Reps have noticed an increase in stress amongst students, and our data from supporting students individually has strengthened this view. The PDA wants to understand more about your wellbeing and the stresses being placed on you so that we can fully support student members.

We have created the PDA Student Wellbeing Survey which we ask all MPharm students to complete and share within universities.

[Complete the PDA Student Wellbeing Survey](#)



FREE webinar for PDA students: Medicines to Ukraine: how pharmacists are getting the right medicines to the Ukraine crisis zone

Date: 9 February. **Time:** 7 pm. **Place:** Microsoft Teams

As Secretary General of EPhEU, an umbrella organisation of pharmacists' unions across Europe, PDA Chairman, Mark Koziol brought together unions across Europe to develop a scheme to deliver supplies of medicines to Ukrainian hospitals. This scheme emerged following requests for help from EPhEU members in Ukraine.

Following his [successful trip to Ukraine](#), Mark Koziol will be joining PDA Student Reps for an online event to talk about the international work of pharmacists, and how the expertise of pharmacists is making a difference in the Ukraine crisis zone.

The event will cover:

- The international work of pharmacists
- Pharmacists' expertise in crisis situations
- [Medicines to Ukraine](#)
- Mark Koziol, PDA Chairman and Secretary General of EPhEU, experiences in the war zone
- Anti-microbial research
- How to get involved

The event is free to attend. All PDA Student members are welcome to this opportunity to hear from Mark Koziol about how the expert knowledge possessed by pharmacists can help in crisis situations.

[Register for the webinar here](#)



PDA attends the GFTU's Young Members Development Weekend



When you join the PDA, you become a part of the largest pharmacists' organisation and the only independent trade union exclusively for pharmacists in the UK.

The PDA are affiliated to the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) alongside other unions such as the Social Workers Union and the Psychotherapy and Counselling Union. As an affiliate, PDA Student Reps have the opportunity each year to attend the GFTU's Young Members Development Weekend. Here they learn and practice skills like negotiating, how to be an activist, and media training.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Read on to hear from PDA Student Rep, Noni Anigbo's experience of attending the GFTU's Young Members Development Weekend in 2022...

PDA Student Reps in action, the GFTU's Young Members Development Weekend

By Noni Anigbo, 3rd year PDA Student Rep, Keele University

In November 2022, I attended the GFTU's Young Member's Development Weekend, which is an opportunity for young members of the union to get together and develop essential skills.

I was exposed to many different sides of union work throughout the weekend, including negotiations, politics, media, human rights work, and climate change. I also got to hear first-hand experiences from union workers who recently stood on the picket line, and a British unionist who assisted the South African, African National Congress in fighting to end Apartheid.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Camila Gonzalez Velez, PDA Student Rep, represents Scottish MPharm students at the STUC's 95th Annual Women's Conference in Glenrothes

The Scottish Trades Union Congress's (STUC) conference, themed 'Inspired by our Past; Building for the Future', was attended by over 140 delegates.

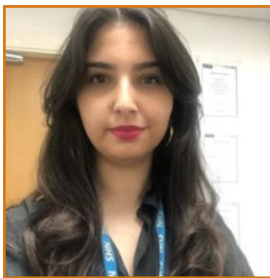
Camila Gonzalez Velez, PDA Student Rep and Maxine Flynn, primary care pharmacist, found the conference to be wonderfully informative and a great introduction to the inner workings of trade union activities for women.

Camila Gonzalez Velez said, *"by representing the PDA, we were able to share with the conference how these issues were currently impacting the care of women's health and how they are being experienced by the women providing this care to patients in pharmacies."*



[Click here to learn more](#)

Women in pharmacy: NAWP elect new President, Ayah Abbass



In August 2022 the PDA NAWP Network announced the newly elected committee consisting of Ayah Abbass as President, Daniela Rusalim as Vice-President, Wye Bing Chan as Honorary Secretary, and Naina Chotai as Immediate Past President.

Since then, NAWP President, Ayah Abbass was interviewed for the Inclusive Pharmacy Practice (IPP) Bulletin. During the interview Ayah discussed the importance of equality in pharmacy, why more women in pharmacy should be in leadership roles and her hopes for the future of women in pharmacy.



[Click here to learn more](#)



JOIN A PDA EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NETWORK TODAY!

#PDAnawp - #PDAbame - #PDAlgbt - #PDAability

The PDA has four Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Networks. These are the PDA NAWP Network, the PDA BAME Network, the PDA Ability Network, and the PDA LGBT+ Network. Students can join any of these networks for free.

Membership of the PDA's EDI Networks is open to all pharmacists, students and trainee pharmacists in the UK. Pharmacists do not need to identify as BAME, disabled, LGBT+, or female in order to join the networks. All networks welcome allies, people who will support equality and fairness for all.



[Click here to join a PDA EDI Network](#)

An award-winning pharmacy student's commitment to helping other students



The PDA is a helping hand to pharmacy students in the UK. We offer free PDA student membership, have trained PDA Student Reps in pharmacy schools, and we celebrate the achievements of pharmacy students.

Each year, the PDA sponsors the Student Leadership category of the Welsh, Scottish, and Northern Irish Pharmacy Awards to celebrate the successes of future professionals. We recently caught up with Harvey John, the winner of the Welsh Pharmacy Student Leadership Award, to highlight his inspirational dedication to his studies and his fellow students.

My pharmacy journey

I always loved healthcare and medical science, but I found pharmacy by complete coincidence. When I was 16, I suffered a serious infection on my right hand where a blister got infected. It got septic and I was rushed to the hospital and had two operations. I had not previously thought about medicine as a career, but I was fascinated by the medication that was given to me rather than the procedure to save my hand. This experience sparked my interest in pharmacy.

During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, our local pharmacy offered me work experience and subsequently a summer job. Since then, I have worked part-time in a community pharmacy and it was then the 'pharmacy bug' hit, and it has never let go.

[Click here to learn more](#)



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Just search 'Pharmacists' Defence Association' on any of these platforms.

For more information or to join the PDA, visit: www.the-pda.org