

PDA Student E-News

October 2021



#PDAstudent



Welcome to the October 2021 PDA Student Newsletter

In this edition, read about how MPharm students across the UK are getting involved in the PDA's #GetVaccinated campaign and find out how to get more involved with the work of the PDA!

In this months issue:

PDA supports student members with exam appeals and academic misconduct | Inclusion of LGBT+ education in the MPharm programme | PDA welcomes new and returning pharmacy students | Get involved with the PDA | Pharmacy students take part in the PDA's #GetVaccinated campaign

PDA supports student members with exam appeals and academic misconduct

The PDA has supported a record number of students with exam appeals, reasonable adjustments and academic misconduct accusations during this past exam period. Student members have received free support from experienced PDA staff on a variety of issues, from reasonable adjustments to accusations of collusion and cheating.

Considering the increased numbers of academic misconduct allegations, the PDA is liaising with some universities about procedures, student support and new exam formats to improve clarity, communication and student experiences in these difficult circumstances.

PDA workshops are available to students via the pharmacy schools at the start of the new academic year to ensure students understand the benefits of PDA membership and support, professional issues, academic misconduct, and university procedures, and therefore are better prepared for their MPharm.

A PDA student member said, "*Thank you to the Pharmacists' Defence Association for providing me with help and support throughout my academic misconduct allegation. The PDA listened to me and provided me with guidance. I urge all pharmacy students to join the PDA for all the support in their MPharm studies.*"

The PDA encourages new and returning pharmacy students to sign up for FREE PDA membership to receive PDA support, free indemnity insurance and educational opportunities.

[Click here or scan the QR code to learn more](#)



Inclusion of LGBT+ education in the MPharm programme

By Soh Xi Ken, Honorary Secretary of the PDA's LGBT+ Network

The PDA LGBT+ Network Committee have reached a consensus that the MPharm degree content needs to be reviewed to improve LGBT+ inclusivity. It is important to educate students, let LGBT+ students feel included, tackle LGBT+ discrimination in an education setting, and most importantly, improve LGBT+ patient care in the long run.

LGBT+ patients have many unique health needs that are not currently met, alongside various other conditions and diseases which are impacting them but not represented adequately in the curriculum. This was confirmed by the [2017 National LGBT survey](#).



Updating curriculums at Schools of Pharmacy where LGBT+ inclusion is lacking, supports the GPhC's Initial Education and Training standards (IET), specifically the aim of *"having a greater emphasis on equality, diversity and inclusion to combat discrimination and address health inequalities."* This addition was requested by the PDA and other organisations in pharmacy for the sake of patients and students.

The committee have written a template letter in collaboration with the network's members and would like you to help us circulate this document to your respective Heads of School. All students are encouraged to get involved by asking Schools of Pharmacy to update the curriculum.

This is the beginning of a comprehensive change by the GPhC and Schools of Pharmacy to continue to develop and be more representative and inclusive of LGBT+ students and patients. The LGBT+ Network is a safe space for LGBT+ pharmacists, pharmacy students and trainees to work together to help organisations and establishments in pharmacy make this change and support one another in our pharmacy journeys. If you would like a copy of the template, please contact the committee on lgbt@the-pda.org.

PDA welcomes new and returning pharmacy students

The PDA would like to welcome new foundation level and first-year students and returning MPharm student members and remind them to encourage their peers to sign up for FREE PDA student membership. It's quick and easy to sign up.

Here are some of the things the PDA does for student members:

- Support and advise student members on a range of professional and university related queries such as competency, exam procedure and placements
- Help student members with reasonable adjustments, fitness to practice concerns, academic misconduct allegations and appeals
- Access to FREE online PDA student events
- FREE Trade union membership
- FREE Indemnity insurance
- Opportunities to write for our student newsletter, join in on PDA campaigns, and be more involved by becoming a PDA student rep
- FREE PDA [EDI Network](#) Membership (BAME Network, LGBT+ Network, Ability Network and NAWP (National Association of Women Pharmacists).

[Click here or scan the QR code to learn more](#)



Get involved with the PDA

The PDA recognises and values our student reps and the work they do in universities. The role involves sharing information and feeding back on student issues and concerns, including from your peers so that we can lobby on your behalf, communicate with you, issue relevant guidance and support, and where appropriate, campaign for you and with you.

Being a student rep is a voluntary role that is vital to the work of the PDA and will help ensure that more pharmacy students are aware of who the PDA are, what we do, what support and advice is available to students when they join the PDA, and how members can get involved.

The PDA student rep role is an ideal opportunity for you to learn more about the pharmacy sector, access CPD opportunities and communicate with more students at your university.

You can also join the PDA's EDI Networks for FREE. These are member led and allow you to network with pharmacists, students and trainees. The networks provide a structure through which members can work together to proactively address and campaign around each protected characteristic.

[Click here or scan the QR code to learn more](#)



Pharmacy students take part in the PDA's #GetVaccinated campaign

The PDA launched #GetVaccinated in February 2021 to support the NHS campaign and to help dispel vaccine myths. This campaign was also used to utilise pharmacists' unique roles in their communities and to encourage them to have conversations with patients about the vaccine.

As universities and education establishments prepare to resume teaching and learning, PDA student reps have added their own contributions to the PDA's #GetVaccinated campaign, aiming to encourage students and younger people to get their vaccinations to protect them from Covid-19, the effects of long Covid and to ensure they can continue seeing family and friends safely.

Any student who would like to get involved with the campaign, can send a picture of themselves and two sentences on why they feel young people getting vaccinated is important, to students@the-pda.org.

[Click here or scan the QR code to learn more](#)



Getting in touch

We want the PDA student newsletter to be representative of students' experiences. If you would like to feature in a future issue, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch by emailing your views to Hannah.Baker@the-pda.org.

We also encourage you to forward this email to pharmacy students who are not yet members of the PDA. Membership is FREE to students and trainee pharmacists. [Join today!](#)

Let's stay connected. Follow us on social media. #PDAstudent



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