

The BucksMont Pharmacists Association (BMPA) - A Brief History from Inception to Robust PPA County Affiliate

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The BucksMont Pharmacists Association was officially founded in April, 2013. This was the result of a decision made in the fall of 2012 by PPA, our parent organization that proposed a merger involving the Montgomery County Pharmaceutical Association and the Bucks County Pharmaceutical Association in an effort to unify and strengthen their presence in the region and encourage new and involved members to join the newly formed organization. After months of meetings and guidance from PPA, the two organizations became what is now the BucksMont Pharmacists Association.

Since its inception, the mission of BMPA has been to educate pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and keep them informed about current legislative and other issues affecting the profession of pharmacy. BMPA membership began with 144 active pharmacists, including 35 students. Over the past two years BMPA has seen significant growth in membership with 185 members in 2014 and 210 members in 2015, including 46 pharmacy students and 12 pharmacy technicians. The organization has been proud to host several corporate sponsored informational dinner meetings over the past three years. These meetings provide BMPA members the opportunity to explore new business opportunities via networking, learn new information about recently marketed pharmaceutical products and the opportunity to become engaged with local pharmacy students, who are actively invited to attend each of our meetings. BMPA has also been successful at providing several ACPE accredited CE programs over this time including one on pharmacy law and most recently, a program on the proper use of opioids in pain therapy management. Last July, BMPA held a social gathering at a Phillies baseball game. In addition to social, informational and CE programs, BMPA has also been able to feature several guest speakers at our various meetings including representatives from the Bucks County District Attorney's office who spoke about the role of the pharmacist in preventing drug diversion, an independent consultant who provided advice on buying and selling pharmacies and also several presentations devoted to legislative updates affecting pharmacy practice in PA.

Earlier this summer, BMPA sponsored a meeting designed to increase awareness and stimulate new membership by offering a dinner/CE program free of charge to all members and nonmembers. The attendance at this meeting was a record high with over 50 attendees. Handouts describing the benefits of PPA/BMPA membership were made available to all attendees, and it is anticipated that the success of this meeting will generate an increased interest with local pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. BMPA is planning an informational dinner meeting for Thursday, October 22, 2015 on the topic of biosimilars and the program is being sponsored by Amgen, Inc. Additional detail about the meeting will be posted on the PPA and BMPA web pages as soon as it is available

(<http://www.papharmacists.com/members/group.aspx?id=134182>).