

Member Spotlight

Featuring: Caroline Sierra, PharmD, BCPPS

Can you tell us about a specific turning point in your pharmacy career that led you to where you are today?

While there wasn't a single turning point, where I am today is a combination of saying "yes", having opportunities presented to me at the right time, and a genuine interest in getting involved and solving problems. Throughout my life I have looked at processes and wondered how they can be improved. I am energized by thinking about ways to streamline operations and make things more efficient, which manifests in everything from my approach to patient care to my time in the classroom. I continue to be motivated by the opportunity to tackle complex problems, gather input from others, and find ways to make things better for pharmacy practice and education.



What is one piece of advice you would give to a student or new practitioner looking to get involved?

Don't wait until you feel qualified. Many amazing opportunities will present themselves before you feel prepared for them, and some of my most meaningful experiences came from opportunities that felt outside my comfort zone. It's easy to think you need more experience or a title before you take on a leadership role or volunteer for a committee – or even walk up to someone to introduce yourself. In truth, most of us are figuring it out as we go along, and it's okay to take on these roles and grow as you learn. You don't have to have all the answers, you just need to be willing to show up, do the work, and keep learning.

What got you involved in serving at so many levels of CSHP?

I was fortunate to have excellent early experiences with my local affiliate chapter. I was welcomed with open arms into the Inland chapter as a resident, and my involvement with this group continued to grow. Several

individuals in ISHP encouraged me to get involved at the state level, and serving on the CSHP New Practitioner Board helped solidify my interest in and engagement with CSHP. The relationships I have built through volunteering have been one of the most rewarding aspects of my involvement and have allowed me to collaborate with pharmacy colleagues from across the state. And, it's fun! Many of the people I now call friends are individuals I met through CSHP.\

How are you personally working to “move the profession forward” in your current role?

One of my most important priorities is aligning pharmacy education with where pharmacy practice is headed. Of course, none of us can predict the future, but preparing student pharmacists to be adaptable and self-motivated readies them for the changes ahead. It is essential that we give students the tools not just for the profession as it is today, but as it will be throughout their careers. My involvement with professional organizations helps me gather additional perspectives that I can bring back to the school to help create an educational environment that is flexible and responsive to the needs of patients and the profession.