Pharmacy Special Interest Group Meeting

**Attendance:** Haley Pals, Delesha Carpenter, Grace Marley, Jessica Moreno, Talia Puzantian, Alyssa Falleni, Kelsey Schmuhl, Molly Nichols, Daniel Sledge, Tessa Rife-Pennington, Jeffrey Bratberg, Chair

Co-Chair: TBD

**Agenda/Discussion:**

* Jeffrey Bratberg, PharmD, FAPhA, Pharmacy SIG Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm CST in the Atlantic Ballroom E at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Chicago, IL.
* Jef reviewed the new AMERSA mission and vision statements and read the Pharmacy SIG group purpose.
  + “The purpose of the Pharmacy SIG group is to recruit and unite pharmacists from community, ambulatory care, inpatient, and other care settings with pharmacy researchers and advocates to advance health equity among people across the cascade of SUD care. The SIG’s mission is to advance and highlight pharmacist roles and leadership in interprofessional SUD care in teaching, scholarship, advocacy, and clinical service teams.”
* Each attendee introduced themselves and explained why they chose to come to AMERSA, and what they wanted to get out of the SIG or how the wanted to contribute to its purpose. SIG attendees expressed interest in AMERSA for its national, multidisciplinary focus on addiction; emphasis on opportunities to learn about and share best practices in SUD education across the learning continuum; identifying and mitigating disparities in SUD consequences and access to treatment and harm reduction; and AMERSA’s focus on advocacy and policy change.
* Jef reviewed the agenda, which outlined potential SIG activities or committees working throughout the year in advocacy, teaching, service, and scholarship. He also emphasized that membership is open to members and non-members, currently, including people who work for pharmaceutical companies.
  + **Advocacy**
    - Working on pharmacy-specific advocacy within the lanes of AMERSA (especially the Advocacy Committee) at state and national levels
    - Consideration of developing position statements related to pharmacy
  + **Teaching** 
    - Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) interactions with journal clubs or topic discussions among members; connecting students and institutions
  + **Service**
    - Disseminate our research and teaching materials within and outside of the group
    - Marketing what we are at AMERSA to the pharmacy community through listservs, social media (AMERSA, not our own SIG version)
    - Share career opportunities and post-graduate positions
  + **Scholarship**
    - Share research notices (i.e. Health Affairs call for papers), RFP’s, collaborate on projects
    - Commentary for SAj
  + **Leadership**
    - Participate and lead AMERSA committees, Board membership
* ***Overall, we want AMERSA to be the professional home for addiction pharmacists.***
* The group discussed next steps, with a majority of the group expressing interest in addressing stigma among practicing pharmacists and trainees.
* Since AMERSA is the professional home for addiction pharmacists, the group wanted to establish methods to communicate - texting, email, Google groups, and newsletters were discussed – and prioritized a website presence to connect more pharmacists (e.g. Veterans’ Administration pharmacists) and collect and share publicly available tools, papers, curriculum, training programs, etc. Jef is creating a website for his FORE-funded grant, pharmacybridge.org and offered to have this host AMERSA SIG resources. Haley Pals offered to link public facing VA bibliography of SUD articles.
* TO DOS:
  + Create website (Jef)
  + Post meeting minutes (Jef)
  + Explore creating a group text (Jef)
  + Recruit people (everyone)
  + Create unified definition of professional identity of SUD pharmacist (everyone)
  + Gather ways to advocate for sustainable bill for services (this is barrier to pharmacists being hired for positions and limits their reach in the addiction space and in areas where pharmacists could have maximum impact) - Everyone
  + For DEI: Work on reducing stigma related to SUD diagnosis, harm reduction, criminal-legal system involvement, and help disseminate NABP guidelines for buprenorphine dispensing in pharmacies to ensure equitable access; across teaching/advocacy/scholarship/service – intentionally involve people with lived and living experiences
  + Create process to recruit SIG Co-Chair
* The SIG adjourned at 1:33 pm CST.