

Dear Pharmacy Class of 2026,

Congratulations to you all for entering this exciting new chapter in your lives! I would like to personally welcome each one of you into our Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences! I know the trials and tribulations undergraduate studies carry - and regardless of where you are coming from, and where you will go - I would like to take this moment to **applaud you all** for getting here.

My name is Bojana Nikic (*she/her*) and I am both the president of the Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association (APSA), and the past-president of the LGBTQ+ Pharmacy Student Club (LGBTQ+PhSC). I am excited and proud of the work our current council has undertaken to bring forth vibrancy, opportunities and connection for our pharmacy student life in this upcoming year!

You will be hearing much from us this next year, and I encourage you all to explore all that APSA offers students. We work to advocate for students, provide opportunities for growth in leadership and collaboration, and offer an array of social events and activities for all students to attend. We are home to the infamous Pharmacy vs Dentistry hockey game, our RxFactor Talent Show, and our Blue & Gold Awards Gala - just to name a few (and really, this is only a few).

If there is anything I have learned from my time in school, it is that time really flies by - but it is never too late to get involved, connect with new people and continue your growth as a person. The best advice I can give is to (first take a deep breath) always explore new opportunities and connections, and without exception be proud of your courage in doing so. This is a difficult program, and the nature of life can make it all that much more difficult. It is OK to feel frustrated, confused, exhausted or even disappointed at times. We all feel that way - at least I do. But you are here and deserving so - and no one can take that away from you. Soak up every experience that awaits you these next 4 years, and don't forget to smile throughout :)

I look forward to meeting you all this Fall - please feel free to reach out if you have any questions! Wishing you all many lessons, laughter and growth in this new journey.

Sincerely,



Bojana Nikic (*she/her*), President | Past-Present
Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association | LGBTQ+ Pharmacy Student Club
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Dear Pharmacy Class of 2026,

Congratulations on your acceptance into the pharmacy program at the University of Alberta. Trust me, the next four years will be a blur to you but you will experience so much personal and professional growth. Zach and I are very excited to be part of your journey to become successful pharmacists. As your *Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI)* representatives, we would like to introduce you to the organization that, in partnership with APSA, will provide various opportunities to supplement your knowledge, meet new colleagues, and become further inspired to advance the profession as future pharmacists. With your registration to become an APSA member, you automatically become a CAPSI member as well!

As your CAPSI representatives, it is our personal duty to provide you with the knowledge and have the ability to maximize your benefits as a CAPSI member. CAPSI is a national organization that brings together pharmacy students from all across Canada. Our organization strives to provide pharmacy students with educational and practical experiences outside of the pharmacy curricula. At a local level here at the University of Alberta, CAPSI is involved in fundraising for events such as *CIBC Run for the Cure* and *Movember*. We also organize professional development activities including CAPSI competitions in October and *Professional Development Week (PDW)* conference in January. CAPSI also organizes *Pharmacists Awareness Month* in March to advocate for the profession of pharmacy to the public and other health care disciplines.

This year is going to be a little different but we have worked hard all summer to try to come up with opportunities for you throughout the year. September is a busy month! Stay tuned for many events we have lined up such as our new initiative of the Race against Racism. All ages and skill levels are welcome! Every year, we organize the U of A Pharmacy Team to fundraise money for CIBC Run for the Cure. Last year, our pharmacy team reached a total of \$100,000 raised within the past 6 years. This year, we have taken on a new endeavor to improve the health of our patients outside of our traditional pharmacy practice. The charity we will be supporting this year is Action Dignity, which helps to address social determinants of health.

The next four years will be very rigorous but also very rewarding. We strongly encourage you to get involved: participate in events; go to lunch and learns, presentations and conferences; network, and meet new people! Please remember that your health and well-being should always remain your first priority and be sure to reach out for help if you find yourself struggling. We truly are one big “pharmily” and we would be more than happy to help you with any questions or difficulties you may have. If you would like to find out more about CAPSI, please visit www.capsi.ca, or reach out to Rachel or myself as we are more than welcome to chat over zoom or through email. We are happy to answer any questions that you have and we can't wait to meet you all, in person, at our fall orientation!

Cheers,

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Canadian Society of
Hospital Pharmacists



Société canadienne des
pharmaciens d'hôpitaux

Dear Class of 2026,

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Doctor of Pharmacy program here at the University of Alberta! You have all put in a tremendous amount of effort towards achieving this milestone and are incredibly deserving of this opportunity. I am glad that you have decided to join us and take the first step towards a promising career in pharmacy!

I have the pleasure of being your CSHP-AB Student Representative for APSA this upcoming year. The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) is a national organization of pharmacists that devotes itself to the promotion of best medical practice(s), education, and advocacy within the hospital and other collaborative healthcare settings. I will primarily serve as a liaison between the CSHP and you, the student body.

I will also be serving as the head of the CSHP Student Committee. We plan to bring you a whole host of exciting events this year and I can't wait to show you what we have in store! As your interest in hospital pharmacy grows once you start to make your way through the program, I encourage you to consider investing in a CSHP membership! A CSHP membership will provide you entry to the CSHP-AB Student Members Facebook page where you will receive exclusive access to many CSHP events and programs. I will be sure to highlight some of these events during your upcoming orientation!

I encourage you all to make the most of your time in pharmacy school because these four years will be over before you know it. Whether you do so through intramurals or engaging in some of the amazing events APSA will be hosting, take the time to get to know your classmates as you will be building relationships that last a lifetime.

I look forward to meeting you all on your orientation day and filling you in about all things CSHP. If you wish to find out more about what the CSHP has to offer, please visit www.cshp.ca or you can contact me directly with your questions.

Best of luck,

Karanvir Deol, CSHP-AB Student Representative

Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association

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