



Dear Class of 2027,

On behalf of the BPSA, we would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulate you on your acceptance into the PharmD program! You should be incredibly proud of the rigorous efforts and countless hours you have dedicated to reaching this immense milestone. As you embark on this new journey, we know that this can be a time filled with joy and nerves of excitement; however, rest assured that you will have a community of support every step of the way.

Our names are Camala Soliman and Aisha Ibrahim, and we are the current co-presidents of the Black Pharmacy Students' Association (BPSA). The BPSA is a relatively new student group founded in 2020 with the vision to increase Black representation and engagement across all aspects of the Pharmacy profession. Since its inception, the BPSA has had three main goals: representation, advocacy, and mentorship. We aim to ensure an increased **representation** of both black students and staff in the faculty. We **advocate** for the increased representation of black health in the curriculum to improve health disparities and inequities. We also advocate for offering anti-racism education to students and preceptors and implementing safe disclosure policies for students experiencing racism and discrimination. Lastly, we provide **mentorship** and guidance to prospective black applicants through our BPSA Mentorship Program to foster a sense of community and solidify a network for prospective students and current BPSA members.

While starting your journey as a first-year student can be overwhelming, it can also be a very rewarding and transformative experience. As a student group, we aim to enrich your student experience by providing professional enrichment opportunities and plenty of opportunities to connect with peers through social events. While it is important to prioritize academics, it is also just as important that you get involved with student life by joining student clubs and attending events.

Essentially, our hope with BPSA is to be black-focused but not black-exclusive. Throughout the year, BPSA offers numerous engaging and inclusive events, including our Let's Talk webinar series, Intersectional Literature Nights, Pop-up Clinic event, and Black History Month events. In addition, BPSA also aims to offer black students in the program a safe space and the opportunity to connect with other Black pharmacy students. We strive to do this through numerous events for black-identifying members of BPSA, such as our mixer events, movie/game and trivia nights, and interdisciplinary events with other black student groups at the University of Alberta. For more information on the BPSA, please check out our [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#). Congratulations once more on your acceptance. We wish you all the best on your journey!

Sincerely,

*Aisha Ibrahim*

*Camala Soliman*