



International Pharmaceutical  
Students' Federation

Established in 1949

## International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation - Contact Person's Report

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### 1. Introduction

*APS-Japan has about 890 members. Our association was established in 1998. We have 13 executives including 8 directors (president, vice president, treasure, fundraising officer, external director, internal director, publication officer and Contact Person.) and officers of committees. There are 5 committees, Students Exchange Committee (SEC), Pharmacy Education Committee, Public Health Committee, Academic Committee and Regional Relations Committee. Each committee does many activities based on our philosophy. Every end of March, APS-Japan has own congress for Japanese pharmaceutical students, then these committees show their outcomes what they have done during the year. Our association is aimed at to find what we can do as pharmaceutical students, for example, Public Health Committee have done many campaigns for local people. We do not have chances to try at university, but if you join APS-Japan you can try many kinds of event based on your knowledge you study at university. APS-Japan has 4 brunch offices, Kanto-Shibu, Kansai-Shibu, Kyushu-Shibu and Tokai-Shibu. These offices held meetings once in a term and keep contact with member associations of APS-Japan. There are about 20 member associations based on each university. Japan has more than 70 pharmaceutical universities and total number of pharmaceutical students must be more than 80000. This situation is quite unique compared with other countries and because of this it is hard to contact with many pharmaceutical students at different universities. 4 brunch offices and each member association must be a key to solve this problem. From this year, APS-Japan encourages these 4 brunch officers to motivate their activities in their areas.*

### 2. Education and Practice Activities

*Pharmacy Study Committee held Study Session Project (SSP) about what pharmacists did during the Great East Japan Earthquake (The 3.11). The reason that we held SSP is earthquakes break out many times. So, many people are interested in disaster medical care. The 3.11 occurred in Tohoku 5 years ago. So, SSP about disaster medical care held in Tohoku area was meaningful. There were three aims in this event. First, five years have passed since The 3.11 broke out. We thought we need to know what pharmacists could do, did, and should have done. Second, we already know about the things written above and think what we can do as pharmaceutical students, as future pharmacists. Third, we had a chance to link with pharmaceutical students in Tohoku. SSP is a participatory study event that all students learn by students. The point of this event is not one-way sharing of information but proceeding this event by asking the participants for their comments. The participants got the chance to get medical knowledge and hear successful stories of pharmacists by this presentation by the pharmacy education officer. So, in the workshop, we thought about what we can do if another earthquake breaks out again like the 3.11. At last the officer commented that he would like to spread that pharmacists can do or should do in an*



emergency. It was the first time the SSP was held in Tohoku. So, I was worried whether pharmaceutical students were interested in this events and took part in it. But our worry was groundless. On the day of event, more people joined than we thought. In addition, not only pharmaceutical students but a nursing student, a doctor, a nutritionist joined it too. So, we had the chance to exchange opinions from many people with different jobs. I thought that means disaster medical care is noteworthy. I would like to make use of this event to next event in Tohoku.



### 3. Public Health Activities

On 29th in July, the Public Health Committee held event of World No Tobacco Day in Kanto branch and Osaka branch. This event's aim was getting correct knowledge about tobacco and thinking how to promote preventing tobacco with participants. Actually, participants learned tobacco's toxicity through experiencing nicotine extraction. In addition, participants learned structure through decomposition tobacco, tobacco's history, how to prevent tobacco through the presentation and the discussion. In the last event, participants thinking three themes, "how to stop smoking", "how to keep not smoker to future", and "how to prevent that minors and children start smoking" as a pharmacist, and expert about tobacco. In this event, there were many kinds of participants, non-smokers, ex-smokers, and smokers. They learned various things about tobacco from the individual point of view. This event was meaningful because we had a chance to learn about tobacco. We hope non-smokers increase.



### 4. Student Exchange Programme

APS-Japan held Student Exchange Programme in February. Exchange students were divided into three areas, Fukuoka, Osaka, and Kanto. The Fukuoka area collaborated with Blue Cross Pharmacy. Foreign Students in Fukuoka area did internship for four days. They learned the situation of Japanese pharmacy directly. In addition, they went to a field trip in Japan Red Cross



Fukuoka hospital. They visited dialysis room, clean room, and some wards. There are few technicians in Japan. In this situation, where we have less technicians, pharmacists do what technicians should do. The Osaka area and the Kanto area collaborated. First, the Osaka and Kanto area students stayed at Osaka for one week. They went to Osaka city university hospital. They visited an aseptic room and surgical treatment room. They learned safe medication system, uniform management by an electronic medical record, preventing wrong dispensing, preventing wrong giving medication by management of data that is barcode, and double checking. Then students discussed about their country's hospital by comparing with Osaka city university hospital, and think about the problems about medical care. After staying in Osaka, they stayed at the Kanto area for one week. They went to tour in a factory in a pharmaceutical company. Why was this tour planed? Because nowadays, traditional medicine is popular all around the world. So, by this event, they learned Japanese traditional medication "Kampo". They



learned the history of Kampo, the medication, and the production method. Other than above, we had wonderful time through sighting. Next year we want to hold better SEP.

## 5. Other Activities

### Annual Congress of APS-Japan

The Annual Congress has different aim every year. This year's aim was what pharmaceutical students should think about how to involve in medical areas 10~20 years later, as the next generation. The reason is because the Japanese government announced "Health Care 2035 Report" last year. This is the vision of health policy in anticipation of the year of 2035. The Annual Congress participants thought about it throughout the workshops (WS). Many kinds of WSs were held in the Annual Congress. And we thought about the future medical issues from various points of view through the WSs. There were 17 WSs. There are 3 explaining of my favorite 2 WSs and a symposium below.

#### 【English WS】

Participants learned pharmaceutical English and got an opportunity to use English. The reason why this workshop was held is because English is thought to be unimportant for pharmacists in Japan. But number of tourist to Japan is increasing year after year. Additionally Tokyo Olympic will be held on 2020. So there may be times when pharmacists confront a situation where they have to give instructions to patients in English.

#### 【Medical advertisement for doctors WS】

This WS's aim was thinking about passing on drug information and about the disease as easy as possible from pharmaceutical companies to doctors. Advertising non-OTC drugs for normal citizens is against the law in order to prevent the misuse caused by uses of those drugs without



doctors' or pharmacists' instructions. However, when pharmaceutical companies develop a new medicine and want the doctors to prescribe it, they first need to let doctors know about the presence of the medicine. So this was not a normal advertisement. We don't give instructions with easy words which normal patients know, but we have to make an advertisement that sounds useful and attractive to doctors. Participants noticed that in order to make medical advertisements, we also need knowledge about manufacturing, the ability to show the specific format, and the ability making message creatively. This ability is may be useful in future society of Japan. The lecturer gave us some examples about advertisement for drugs such as the short lasting and the long lasting insulin, opioids, and drugs for Alzheimer diseases. Then we made advertisements for SGLT2 inhibitors.

#### 【Health Care 2035 Report Symposium】

This report, which the ministry of health, labor welfare announced, says that Japanese citizens must learn the way how to live healthy life and practice it. It is important for the way how to live healthy life to prevent diseases, and taking an interest in human biology, disease, drug information is needed to success preventing disease. However, this report didn't mention anything about pharmacists even though they can have a great role in the area of preventive medicine. The symposium was held by special delegates such as Janet Mirzaei, the regional officer of APRO, a public official from the ministry of health, labor, and welfare of Japan, and a lecturer from Hoshi University. This was a very difficult issue to discuss, but at the end, we had to write about what kind of pharmacist we want to be and what we want to do. Of course we all wrote different things, but we all hoped that the government would keep us future pharmacists in mind as well. In the two days, many pharmaceutical students thought about the effects of future medical areas as the next Generation. We hope participants got something for the future



#### 6. Closing Remarks

Other than above, APS-Japan held many activity events. Our officers and executives change every April, so I will share many activity reports for this year. I hope you all to have high expectations with APS-Japan's activities report, and I also highly expect your association activity report, too. I think sharing information is a nice tool for us to know and promote each association, APRO, IPSF, and Pharmacy. Please feel free to ask or send an email anytime if you have information you want to share, or questions for me.

Presented by CP : Kyohei Hashimoto :  
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