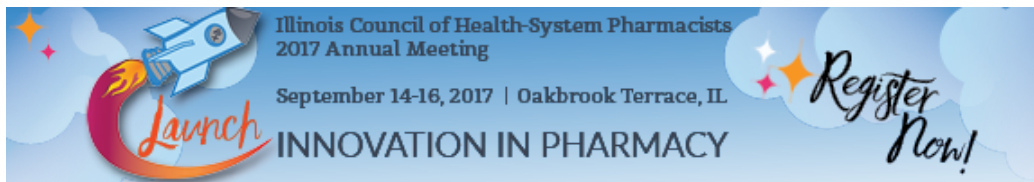




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Exciting Travels to the National Compounding Competition Chicago State University College of Pharmacy

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by Ashley Shinnick, P3, SSHP President

This past November, Chicago State University College of Pharmacy hosted its annual Local Compounding Competition. After three intense rounds of formulation preparation, the first place team was announced and given the prize to represent the college at the national event in Miami, Florida. I was fortunate enough to be a part of this exciting experience.

The team consisted of two P1's and myself, a P2. Needless to say, we were one of the youngest teams in the competition. After meeting with all of the teams, we traveled to the new, state-of-the-art facility where the compounding portion of the event would take place. We had three hours to prepare two prescriptions; a prescription for one hundred capsules and another for six lollipops. So, we garbed up, strategized, and went to work. Each station was fully equipped with 9 ingredients, labels, and formulation records. We were instructed that all the ingredients were to be used. The intensity was high as we raced against the clock. This was part one of the competition.

We returned to the hotel to complete the next two portions of the event. The Jeopardy rounds were next and they presented quite the challenge. My partners and I put our brains together to answer questions for the tough two rounds. The last event was to prepare a poster to present the following day. We had to produce a blueprint of an actual compounding pharmacy complete with, specific laminar hoods, the number of rooms and personnel, and the ideal number of prescriptions per week. Our poster displayed a simple layout; one that completed the requirements and did not distract the observer. This allowed our team to connect with the viewers and engage in a discussion about the different ideas.

Later that evening and into the following day, we were able to network with the professionals who were guest speakers at the two-day affair. On Saturday evening, after completion of the three main events, the students reconvened for a trade show that hosted speakers from United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), as well as a Medisca representative who demonstrated the new Mazerustar mixing technology. The trade show was a wonderful opportunity to connect with a couple of the guest speakers, and students and professors from other programs. The next day, we heard from all of the guest speakers from USP, NCPA, International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists and Pharmacy Development Services) whose presentations were informative and motivating.

I am grateful to my institution for providing me with this experience to travel, meet new people and interact with professionals. I look forward to exploring more opportunities that dive into the different realms of the pharmaceutical profession. I would like to thank my professor, Dr. Michael Danquah for his support at Nationals, as well as my teammates, Dean Nguyen and Alex Nguyen.

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