



## **The Rho Chi Society**

**History at UMKC:** The Rho Chi Society was founded in 1922 at the University of Michigan. The UMKC Alpha Omega chapter was chartered in 1954.

**Organization's Philosophy/Mission:** The Society is to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement and foster fellowship among its members. Further, the Society encourages high standards of conduct and character, and advocates critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy.

**Relationship to National Organization:** The University of Missouri-Kansas City chapter is one chapter among many within this National Organization. The chapter at UMKC was the 48<sup>th</sup> chapter to be chartered, with the designation of Alpha Omega. The local chapter has a close relationship to the national organization and a delegate from the local chapter is sent to attend the annual national meeting.

### **Major Advocacy, Leadership or Community Service Activities (within past two years)**

- ***Rho Chi Informational Meeting – Ongoing: 13 years*** (All Campuses): The Alpha Omega chapter hosted an informational meeting open to all pharmacy students, particularly targeting first year students. The president started with the introduction and gave a brief history on Rho Chi and membership eligibility. We also had Dr. Andrew Smith give a brief presentation on learning strategies and how to be successful in pharmacy school and beyond. To improve the quality of this activity we implemented and updated a “survival guide” made by Rho Chi members specific to each campus that included: places to study, discounts with student ID, food discounts, food trucks commonly on campus, resources available, study tips, and advice from Rho Chi members. This was emailed out to the P1 class and had information on all 3 sites (Kansas City, Columbia, Springfield). After the floor was opened for questions and the Rho Chi members mingled amongst the underclassmen.
- ***General Medicine I Rotation Roundtable – Ongoing: 13 years*** (All Campuses) The Alpha Omega chapter once again hosted their annual General Medicine I rotation roundtable for P2 students. P3 students have a longitudinal IPPE with one faculty member at various practice sites around their site-specific area. The roundtable gives P3 students the opportunity to discuss a typical day at their site, common disease states seen, their respective patient populations, and what is expected of them on their rotation. This year we worked very closely with the faculty member in charge of General Medicine I rotation, Dr. Ruehter, to develop a template for those presenting to enhance the content. We also expanded accessibility by uploading the previous recording from last year's roundtable so

that students still had the same opportunity to play back the recording and learn more. The P2 students expressed that this roundtable was very helpful in deciding which faculty member to choose for their longitudinal rotation. This tradition will be continued by the incoming executive team.

- ***Academic Achievement Ceremony – Ongoing: 14 years*** (All Campuses) The Alpha Omega chapter will hold a reception to recognize P1 students that received a 4.0 GPA after successful completion of the first semester of pharmacy school in the fall. The president and vice president will recognize each P1 student individually and present them with a certificate signed by the chapter President and Dean to acknowledge their achievement. After Rho Chi members will be available for questions and networking. It is the intention of the new executive committee to continue this event.
- ***Student Mentor Program - Ongoing: 4 years*** (All campuses) The Alpha Omega Chapter worked with Dr. Stoner to reach out to students who were needing support. At the Rho Chi Study, members such as the President, were able to mentor P1s on areas they were struggling such as topics as Medicinal Chemistry and Biochemistry. Rho Chi plans to continue to work with Dr. Stoner to aid students who need encouragement and support academically to get through school. The current executive team plans to continue this.
- ***New Student Orientation - Ongoing: 5 years*** (Kansas City) At the new student orientation for the P1s, we were able to present Rho Chi's mission and vision to educate the new students about what Rho Chi is and stands for. We provided information on our activities and requirements to become a member. We also were able to present to the students our poster that captures what our organization does. Students interested in learning more about Rho Chi were able to add their contact information. Many students including Rho Chi executive team members and active Rho Chi members were able to attend this event to inform the P1 students. The incoming executive team has plans to continue attending this event.
- ***Student Survival Guides - Ongoing: 5 years*** (All campuses) Rho Chi has created guides for incoming students. These guides provide study strategies and tips. These guides also provided updated information on how to access various drug resources. These guides were campus specific and provided information about study rooms, student discounts and other various sources to aid the incoming students. All P1s received these survival guides via email and the incoming executive team plans to continue this aid.
- ***UMKC Rho Chi Instagram Page – Ongoing: 3 years*** (All campuses) Rho Chi executive members created an Instagram page for UMKC's Rho Chi chapter. All active and some past Rho Chi members were added to the Instagram page. The page was created for a way to increase Rho Chi alumni involvement and keep past members informed about how the chapter is doing. This page is used to highlight individuals within Rho Chi along with posing NAPLEX review questions.
- ***UMKC New Executive Officer Installment – 4 years*** (All campuses) Within the initiation ceremony the new incoming executive officers were installed. The new executive members had to recite their promise to fulfill the duties set forth in their positions. They were then formally inducted to their positions by the advisors and current executive team. All students recited the oath, and the incoming executive team plans to continue this installment.

**Awards and Accomplishments:** Rho Chi recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of both faculty and students at the annual Rho Chi initiation and awards ceremony. Certificates of recognition are presented to the top performing student(s) in the first and second professional years at the annual Rho Chi

ceremony. The faculty member of the year and senior student of the year are also recognized at the ceremony, with plaques given at the senior awards ceremony.

- **2022-2023 Rho Chi Senior Member of the Year:** Alex Mills
- **2022-2023 Faculty Member of the Year:** Dr. Leigh Anne Nelson

**Advisor(s) and Officers:**

President: Lucy Trask – [latmy2@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:latmy2@mail.umkc.edu)

Vice President: Kelen Caskey – [kncr33@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:kncr33@mail.umkc.edu)

Secretary: Ashley Lewis – [alb6d@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:alb6d@mail.umkc.edu)

Treasurer: Ahmad Pazhoohi – [apnn2@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:apnn2@mail.umkc.edu)

Historian: Sam Menner – [sjmmwc@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:sjmmwc@mail.umkc.edu)

Columbia Liaison: Caleb Diehl – [calebdiehl@mail.umkc.edu](mailto:calebdiehl@mail.umkc.edu)

Springfield Liaison:

**Advisors:** Andrew Smith, Pharm.D., BCPS (co-advisor)  
Amanda Stahnke Pharm.D. BCACP (co-advisor)  
Lisa Cillessen, Pharm.D. (co-advisor)  
Elizabeth Englin, Pharm.D. (co-advisor)  
Erica Ottis, Pharm.D. (co-advisor)

**How to Join:** The following eligibility criteria must be met:

- Full-time students enrolled in a professional pharmacy program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- Completed no less than one-half of the required professional didactic course work as defined for their degree
- Rank in the highest 20 percent of their class
- Have attained a minimum professional grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Have been certified eligible for membership by the Dean of the pharmacy school or the Dean's designee

Students who meet all the eligibility criteria are notified at the beginning of the spring semester at which time the student may choose to accept or decline membership in Rho Chi. New members are initiated at an initiation ceremony later in the semester. New officers are elected after this banquet.