Clinical Skills Competition

The winning team members from each school receive a complimentary registration (a $265 value) for the 44th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Top 10 National Finalists will receive a $100 ASHP gift certificate as part of their prize package!

National winners receive a $500 prize and a trophy for their school!

Supported by ASHP Foundation and Pharmacy Student Forum.
The ASHP Clinical Skills Competition facilitates clinical skill development for pharmacy students by encouraging cooperation and teamwork. The competition is designed as an interactive, team-based analysis of clinical scenarios for hospital and health-system pharmacists to help patients make the best use of their medications.

The competition increases pharmacy students’ awareness of the importance of the pharmacist’s role in direct patient care, and to realize their full potential as pharmaceutical care providers by developing a systematic approach to pharmacy practice and patient care.

School Competition
Students enter the competition through their student society of health-system pharmacy (or other designated competition coordinator) as self-selected teams of two. Each team will be given a patient case.

Patient cases will reflect actual scenarios that pharmacists may encounter in any patient-care venue. Patient, disease, and drug-specific information needed to develop a pharmaceutical care plan will be provided. Students will have access to references to guide their decision-making process.

Teams have two hours to complete the following tasks:
- Identify acute and chronic medical problems
- Develop a pharmacist’s care plan

Each team will be required to give a ten minute oral presentation justifying their therapy recommendations.

The team with the highest combined score of the written and oral presentations will be declared the winner. The winning team from each school will advance to participate in the national competition held annually at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

Q. What knowledge and skills are needed to participate?
A. The Clinical Skills Competition is designed to test problem-solving skills. To be successful in the competition, participants should be knowledgeable in the following areas:
- pathophysiology
- clinical pharmacology & therapeutics
- clinical laboratory data interpretation
- medical terminology & abbreviations
- basic pharmacokinetics principles

The competition is not designed to test your knowledge, but to evaluate your ability to apply knowledge in these areas in solving drug therapy problems. Participating in the competition should be considered a learning experience and open to students in all years of pharmacy school.

Q. What prizes are available for students who compete in the competition?
A. At the local preliminary round (school level) competition, the winning team members from each school receive a complimentary ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting registration (a $265 value) to compete at the semi-final national level competition in Las Vegas on December 5, 2009. The top 10 national finalist team members receive a $100 ASHP gift certificate and access to Pharm-Prep Online, ASHP’s board exam preparatory tool. The national winners each receive a trophy, $500, and a trophy for their school.

Q. How will teams be formed?
A. Students are encouraged to register as self-selected teams of two. However, individual students may sign up to be placed on teams by SSHP Faculty Advisor or:

Q. Will references be available?
A. Yes, during the competition participants will have access to drug information, drug interaction, laboratory interpretation, and therapeutics texts; and basic medical texts.

National Competition
The national competition is a two-day event, conducted at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in a manner similar to the school competition, but with a more complex case. On the first day of the national competition, teams will compete in the semi-final round by completing the necessary tasks for case work-up (see school competition). The written work in the semi-final round will be evaluated, and ten finalists will be selected. These finalists will return in the final round on the second day to give an oral presentation. An announcement of the winning team will be made at the student reception on Sunday.

Q. Where can I learn more about how to compete?
A. The Clinical Skills Competition Coordinator Handbook found in the student section of the ASHP website www.ashp.org/clinicalskills contains comprehensive information on all aspects of the competition including the process, format, sample case and answer key, etc.

Q. Where can I find additional information about the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition?
A. For more information, please contact your SSHP Faculty Advisor or:

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