

April 7, 2020

Dear Deans of NYS Schools of Pharmacy:

We are obviously in unprecedented times; the current COVID-19 situation is testing the limits of our health care systems. As pharmacists and pharmacists in training, we have vowed to “consider the welfare of humanity and relief of human suffering our primary concern.” There is no doubt that this is a historic point in history where the outcome resides largely on our ability to all come together and support our health care system in any way we can.

As such and as Governor Cuomo has asked all health care workers and schools to come forward and support the state’s response, the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP) requests all the Deans of New York State schools of pharmacy to consider coordinating with their regional health care systems to see how they can best be of support. This includes but is not limited to:

- Donation of masks, gloves, gowns and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Students who may be willing to volunteer in inpatient pharmacy departments who are having staffing issues for both frontline and non-frontline duties
- Pharmacy practice faculty and other licensed pharmacists who are willing to take on a role within the health system (physically or virtually) to aid in the system’s day-to-day activities
- Other skills and expertise that faculty members may have that could be of benefit to the health care system, such as compounding hand sanitizer

NYSCHP also supports that any student or pharmacist who gives their time and service to any health care system be appropriately on boarded, trained and protected like any employee of that health system would be. Furthermore, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) gave guidance to the schools on April 3, 2020 stating that students 1) can visit experiential sites where a formal affiliation agreement DOES NOT exist between the site and the school and 2) institutional IPPE and APPE hours for COVID-19 related activities may be documented if learning objectives are set and the student has an official preceptor of record. As such, NYSCHP supports the awarding of IPPE or APPE Institutional credit to any pharmacy student eligible to receive it as allowable by their school.

NYSCHP is sensitive to the fact that the severity of this current crisis will vary and fluctuate between the various regions of New York. We are also sensitive that this current crisis is having a large effect on all pharmacy schools and their students’ abilities to progress or graduate. Nevertheless, schools of pharmacy in the state of New York represent a great resource to their communities, and our health care systems will need all the help they can get to help overcome this crisis.

Thank you for all the assistance you're able to provide during this critical time.

Lisa M. Voigt, Pharm.D, BCPS, BCCCP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Voigt".

President- New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists