

Patient Counseling Competition Coming for SWOSU Pharmacy Students

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Southwestern Pharmacy Association (SWPhA) will conduct a patient counseling competition December 7-8 on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Weatherford.

The contest is sponsored by the local branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association Academy for Student Pharmacist (APhA-ASP).

The competition, which tests a student's ability to effectively counsel patients on prescription medications, has been held annually since its adoption by APhA-ASP in 1998. The competition is open to all students of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy Professional Program.

Participants are given five minutes to review a prescription and patient profile, after which they conduct a five minute mock counseling session with a volunteer patient. Each participant's session is recorded and scored by a panel of three judges. Scoring is standardized and based on a series of criteria for proper patient counseling.

An orientation to the competition will be held following the SWPhA meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, in Room 114 of the Pharmacy Annex. The orientation will include a viewing of last year's national finalists. The local competition will then be held from 1-5 p.m. on December 7 and 8. Students may register for a time slot on the SWPhA board in the College of Pharmacy.

After judging, winners will be selected and receive the following prizes: 10 runners up will receive a copy of a pharmacy reference text; one first place winner will receive flight and hotel to attend the APhA-ASP 2007 National Patient Counseling Competition in Atlanta, GA, where he/she will compete for national recognition and a cash prize of up to \$1,000.

For more information, contact competition director Donovan Fuller (fullerd@student.swosu.edu) of the Southwestern Pharmacy Association.