

UpFront: Strengthening Connections

by Michael Nagy, PharmD, BCACP

The year 2022 marked a decade in my connection with the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW). Early on, as a student, PSW seemed overwhelmingly large. I was unconfident on where or even if I would fit in with the state pharmacy society. At the time, I was unaware of many aspects that make PSW visionary. With PSW's unified voice, allowing one place for students to engage with professional pharmacy practice in Wisconsin, my good fortune in beginning my pharmacy practice journey here became apparent. After attending a few conferences and even presenting posters, I began recognizing familiar friendly faces of pharmacists and technicians throughout the state. In my final year of school and throughout residency training, PSW conferences became cherished events where I could reconnect with classmates, mentors, and friends.

The Journal of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (JPSW) is a valuable resource and provides a welcoming environment for emerging as well as experienced writers. My first experience with *The Journal* was

as a lead author for a student writing club team publishing a project from my time at Gundersen Health System. Soon thereafter, Dr. Amanda Margolis (*JPSW* Editor) recruited me as a pharmacy resident (and emerging writer) to join the *JPSW* editorial advisory committee to share my perspective, and it provided opportunities to collaborate and connect, and secured a sense of my own belonging within PSW. Since then, I have led the development of the student writing club at the Medical College of Wisconsin; conducted an evaluation of the student writing club experience at all schools that contribute to *JPSW*; and in collaboration with Dr. Amanda Margolis, Dr. Cassie Sedgewick, Megan Grant, and the *JPSW* editorial advisory committee, created an on-demand [Emerging Writers Program](#). This programing can be used for students, residents (and residency programs), or pharmacists to enhance writing skills and engage with PSW resources.

As I reflect, I recognize the value PSW provided for me in the past as a trainee and now as a pharmacist. I utilize the resources created and maintained by PSW to advance my knowledge as well as strengthen my

professional connections. In PSW's [Plan 2027](#), a tactic that resonates with me is, "Provide visibility to existing PSW engagement opportunities for pharmacy students and new practitioners and evaluate if additional engagement opportunities could be beneficial to expanding belonging." To that end, as a PSW member and new staff with *The Journal of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin*, I hope to create opportunities for member engagement, facilitate statewide dissemination of scholarly work, and be an indispensable resource to all.

I look forward to my future with PSW and highly recommend that if you have the time and interest, to get involved (as well as your learners) with *The Journal*. We have volunteer opportunities to peer review manuscripts and can provide training and guidance. Additionally, if you are completing a quality improvement, research, or residency project, we welcome manuscript submissions of your original work to *JPSW* through our [online submission platform](#).

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