

# MEDICATION SAFETY SCHOLARS

Fundamental to healthcare is do no harm. We know that medication errors continue to account for the largest percentage of preventable medical errors. Pharmacists, as the medication experts, play a key role in optimizing the safety and quality of care and outcomes. While medication safety is included in the curriculum of pharmacy schools, developing critical skills requires sustained application and practice. Engaging our future pharmacists is an important piece of building safer healthcare for all.

The **Medication Safety Scholars** program is a distance impact program that is structured to support up to four Doctor of Pharmacy students, paired with one group coach, to enhance their knowledge and skills in medication safety. The program is designed to engage rising P2 and P3 pharmacy students. A pharmacist who is a recognized medication safety expert will serve as the group's virtual coach.

The program is comprised of four components:

- » Participation in, and completion of, the ASHP/ISMP Medication Safety Certificate Program.
- » Monthly group calls with participants and a shared group coach.
- » Preparation and delivery of an educational activity on medication safety by each participant.
- » Development, either by individual participants or as a group, of a plan for a future quality improvement project, resource, or other initiative focused on medication safety.

The Medication Safety Scholars program is the first program concept to be offered through a new

partnership formed between the **ASHP Foundation** and the **Emily Jerry Foundation**. This unique partnership was established to focus on educating and developing the leadership skills of the next generation of pharmacists.

As the philanthropic arm of ASHP, the ASHP Foundation shares ASHP's vision that medication use will be optimal, safe, and effective for all people all of the time. The Foundation furthers ASHP's priorities through high impact philanthropic activities focused on change, innovation, and outcomes. The mission of the Emily Jerry Foundation is to help make the nation's medical facilities safer for everyone, beginning with our babies and children. A collaboration between the Emily Jerry Foundation and the ASHP Foundation expands the reach and potential impact of both organizations and is consistent with the ASHP Foundation's and Emily Jerry Foundation's shared values and goals.



**Emily Jerry** was diagnosed with a large abdominal tumor when she was a year-and-a-half old. She endured months of testing and rigorous chemotherapy sessions. Emily's treatment had been very successful and the tumor had disappeared. Her last chemotherapy session was just to be sure that there were no traces of cancer left. Soon Emily would be going home to live as a normal, two year old. Tragically, that never happened. Emily died on March 1, 2006 from a medication error in her chemotherapy IV bag during her final chemotherapy treatment. **The Emily Jerry Foundation** was established in Emily's memory to promote patient safety and safe medication practices.

# PROGRAM TIMELINE

*Inaugural Year*

MONTH	ACTIVITY
MAR 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Program announcement via webinar</li> <li>» Application opens</li> </ul>
MAY 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Applications due</li> </ul>
JUN 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Scholars selected</li> <li>» Announcements made to the pharmacy community</li> </ul>
JUL - NOV 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Distance education and virtual engagement</li> <li>» ASHP/ISMP Med Safety Certificate (two modules per month)</li> <li>» Monthly 60-minute group meetings with coach and guest presenters/key opinion leaders in medication safety</li> </ul>
DEC 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Scholars invited to special events at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition</li> </ul>
JAN - MAY 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Monthly group calls with coach</li> <li>» Complete last modules of certificate</li> <li>» Educational activity planning on medication safety by each participant</li> </ul>
SUMMER 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Scholars acknowledged/recognized</li> <li>» Participant project presentations at ASHP Summer Meetings</li> </ul>

## Program Questions

Email the ASHP Foundation at [foundation@ashp.org](mailto:foundation@ashp.org) or contact



**Barbara B. Nussbaum, B.S.Pharm., Ph.D.**  
 Vice President Research and Education  
 ASHP Foundation  
[BNussbaum@ashp.org](mailto:BNussbaum@ashp.org)