

What is an AAPS Discussion Group?

Discussion groups are separate unincorporated entities affiliated with AAPS that further the tax-exempt purposes of AAPS and provide a local forum for interested members and non-members in a specified geographic area. Discussion groups are open to AAPS members and non-members.

Discussion groups are given a tax identification number under the 501(c)(3) status, which allows them to set up bank accounts affiliated with AAPS. Besides income from meeting registration fees, they also receive financial support from AAPS (\$3/AAPS member/year). Discussion groups must send financial and activity reports annually to AAPS.

Discussion groups offer programming which furthers and serves the purposes of AAPS and shall use its best efforts to ensure that such programs are of the highest quality with respect to program content, materials, and logistical preparation. All activities and publications, including any uses of the AAPS name, logo, or copyrights, are subject to prior review and approval by AAPS. All contracts to hold or reserve facility or hotel space must be directed through AAPS for advance written approval of the AAPS Executive Director.

Most discussion groups hold quarterly dinner (evening) meetings each year. The meetings typically have one speaker and take place at a restaurant or company site to be cost effective. Attendees are charged a nominal (\$25-\$50) meeting registration fee to cover dinner, audio-visual expenses, and speaker travel expenses. These dinner meetings provide a unique benefit to the pharmaceutical community by offering networking in a specific geographic location.

Discussion groups may also hold one or two day meetings with multiple speakers and may include contributed papers and exhibits. All sponsor solicitations must be coordinated through the AAPS Associate Director of Meetings and Expositions. Any meetings held at least one full day must be approved by AAPS in order to avoid conflict with meetings organized through the AAPS National Office.

Considerable flexibility is afforded discussion groups in planning the events that best serve their geographic area. The following list of current AAPS Discussion Groups illustrates the variety of meeting choices afforded to them.

- **Bay Area:** formed in Nov. 2005; quarterly dinner meetings with one speaker at each meeting
- **Chicagoland:** five-six meetings per year with one speaker at each meeting
- **Greater Maryland:** three-four meetings per year with one or two speakers at each meeting
- **Indiana/Ohio:** four meetings per year with one speaker at each meeting; these meetings rotate between Indianapolis and Cincinnati
- **Kansas City:** four-six meetings per year with one speaker at each meeting
- **North Carolina Pharmaceutical:** four meetings per year with one speaker at each meeting
- **Northeast Regional:** meets once a year for a full day with four speakers, exhibits, and posters
- **Philadelphia Pharmaceutical Forum:** eight meetings per year with one speaker at each meeting
- **Southern California Pharmaceutical:** nine meetings per year with one speaker at each meeting
- **Southern Regional:** one meeting per year (1 ½ - 2 day meeting) with multiple speakers; works with student chapters in planning the meetings and the meetings rotate locations (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee)
- **Western India/Mumbai:** four meetings per year with one-two speakers; also held one symposium with five speakers

Please visit *AAPS Pharmaceutica* at www.aapspharmaceutica.com and look under “Inside AAPS” to see a current list of AAPS Discussion Groups and to contact the discussion group chairs.