

ANALYSIS OF MOTIVATING FACTORS FOR STUDENT PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACISTS
TO JOIN PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY ORGANIZATIONS: A CASE STUDY OF THE
CALIFORNIA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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Objective:

CPhA is the largest California state association representing the pharmacy profession across all practice settings. However, the association encounters the obstacle of numerous California-licensed pharmacists and student pharmacists not being members, causing them to miss out on the various membership benefits and advocacy opportunities. This raises the question, “What factors motivate and/or prohibit student pharmacists and pharmacists from joining professional pharmacy organizations, like CPhA?” This study seeks to identify the factors influencing membership, or lack thereof, in professional pharmacy organizations, and to assess the perceived extent to which these factors are addressed through membership.

Methods:

To determine the factors influencing membership decisions, a Qualtrics survey was created, covering demographics and factors influencing membership. Likert scale responses and demographic factors from our survey were analyzed using statistics and t-tests.

Results:

Our study revealed that CPhA members perceived professional benefit ($t = 2.1025$, $df = 45.973$, $p\text{-value} = 0.04102$), perceived social benefit ($t = 2.0277$, $df = 36.263$, $p\text{-value} = 0.04999$), and the opportunity to grow the profession ($t = 2.487$, $df = 44.999$, $p\text{-value} = 0.01666$) within their membership compared to non-CPhA members. Additionally, CPhA members exhibited a higher likelihood of being members of other organizations compared to non-CPhA members ($t = 1.286345$, $df = 24.1106$, $p\text{-value} = 0.01019$).

Conclusions/Implications:

Membership in organizations like CPhA is vital for advancing the pharmacy profession, benefiting both individual members and the profession as a whole. This study aims to offer insights regarding professional pharmacy associations on factors influencing membership decisions. Our findings indicate that the influence of several factors is variable; but CPhA members perceive greater professional advantages, social benefits, and opportunities for advancing the pharmacy profession through their affiliation. Additionally, CPhA members are more likely to be members of other organizations compared to non-CPhA members.