

Growth of NCODA Professional Student Organization Chapters

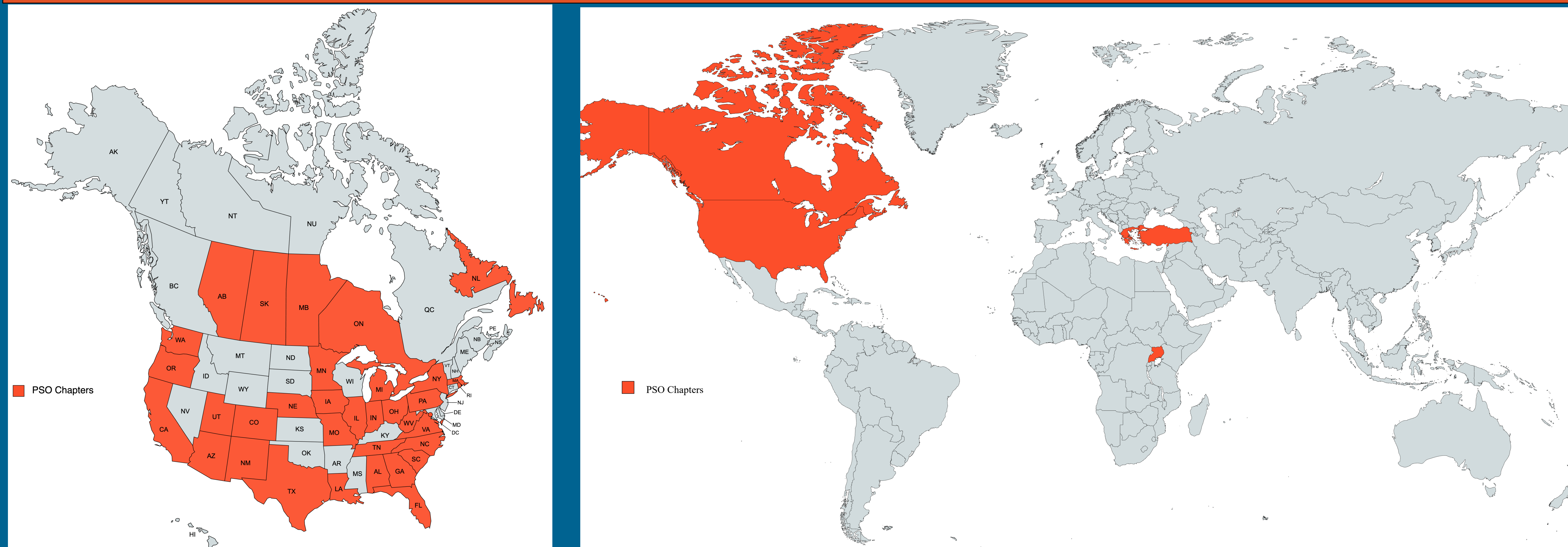
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Background

Oncology is currently the fastest-growing healthcare field. This growth has led to oncology-focused healthcare job openings. To appropriately fill these job openings, the need for a strong oncology education has never been greater. Colleges of pharmacy have limited opportunities for students to go beyond their didactic oncology learning. Oncology pharmacy education is typically provided in the final months of didactic learning, leading to decreased interest in the area. NCODA viewed these gaps in education as an opportunity to commence the NCODA College Engagement initiative. NCODA collaborates with colleges/universities worldwide to offer pharmacy, nursing, and medical students membership into a professional organization centered around advancing NCODA's mission to improve patient care. NCODA believes that there are numerous benefits to having student members and Professional Student Organization Chapters. NCODA student members will gain exposure to a niche therapeutic environment, access to a wide range of professionals in both the industry, oncology, and legislative areas, and will experience first-hand what drives our members to become better patient advocates.

Established PSO Chapters

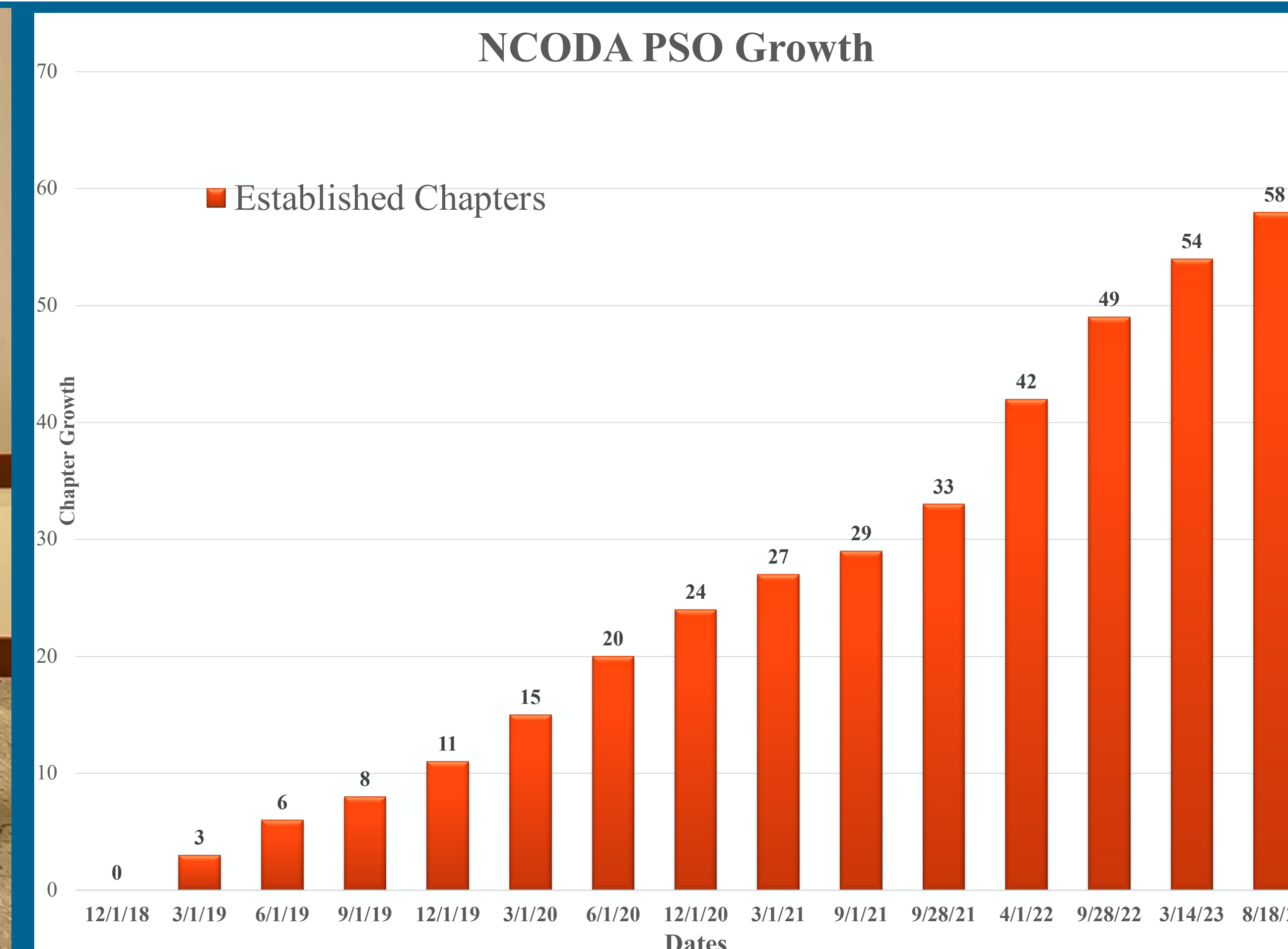


Objective

- To inspire the future generation of oncology leaders
- To provide students opportunities to network and learn from clinical oncology & industry professionals
- To engage with student professionals interested in clinical oncology, pharmaceutical industry, leadership, and healthcare policy/advocacy
- To provide student professionals with international and regional educational presentation opportunities
- To offer a platform for oncology learning for pharmacy students through Student Educational Talks (SETs)
- To educate students on non-traditional oncology career opportunities

Methods

- NCODA staff contacted students from schools and colleges of pharmacy across the country
- NCODA staff explained the value of NCODA for student professionals
- NCODA staff arranged conference meetings with student professionals to discuss Professional Student Organizations
- NCODA staff collaborated with student professionals to present NCODA Profession Student Organization chapters for approval to the student government, faculty and administration
- NCODA staff assisted student professionals to determine faculty advisors for the Professional Student Organization chapters
- NCODA staff provided and aided in completion of an application, bylaws and constitution for the Professional Student Organization chapters
- NCODA staff provided the student professionals with NCODA swag kits to engage student chapter membership



Discussion

- Since the initiation of the NCODA College Engagement Initiative in December 2018, there are 58 established NCODA Professional Student Organization chapters across 60+ campuses. NCODA's 58 established Professional Student Organization chapters are located across 3 continents, 5 countries, 31 states, and 5 provinces: Alberta (CA), Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Greece (4 Universities), Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Marmara University, (Turkiye) Manitoba (CA), Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, New Mexico, Newfoundland/Labrador (CA), North Carolina, Ohio, Ontario (CA), Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Saskatchewan (CA), Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Washington DC. NCODA works with students to connect with local oncology, industry, and legislative professionals to present on a variety of topics, including but not limited to, medically integrated pharmacy, new oncolytic approvals, and oncology/industry career opportunities. NCODA provides a number of educational opportunities including Student Educational Talks (SETs). NCODA SETs are live recorded educational webinars by NCODA members provided to all students. NCODA SETs began in November 2019 and provide education to student members monthly. NCODA has been collaborating with students to host Be The Match Donor Drives, since October 2019. NCODA Professional Student Organizations alone have added thousands of new donors to the national donor registry and have successfully matched three donors with three cancer patients in need. Students also participate in the NCODA student publication Inspire giving them an opportunity to advance in medical writing and get published.

Conclusion

NCODA's membership is growing by leaps and bounds, especially in the student sector. NCODA has approximately 2,500 student members from all over the world that are being engaged and educated in oncology, industry, leadership, and healthcare policy/advocacy. NCODA's members have assisted in the College Engagement initiatives while connecting with pharmacy alumni. NCODA student members are advocating for better patient care on campuses across the country and parts of the world. NCODA's College Engagement initiative will continue with the goal to establish 100 NCODA Professional Student Organization chapters. Along with the creation and development of NCODA Professional Student Organization chapters, NCODA's Association Management Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) is also growing, in 2018 NCODA had an affiliation with only 1 college of pharmacy. In 2023, NCODA has APPE affiliations with 45 colleges of pharmacy. NCODA PSO's official publication just published its second edition and is read by thousands of young professionals worldwide. NCODA is dedicated to the future of oncology and will continue to inspire the next generation of oncology leaders.

