

# IDWeek

## The Student Perspective

“IDWeek is a conference for health professionals involved in infectious diseases. I am a current P3 and just returned from my second time attending this conference! Dr. Renee-Claude Mercier is an incredible boss and mentor and I thoroughly enjoy working in her lab. She creates innumerable opportunities for her students and takes the time to introduce my lab coworkers and I to the top minds in ID pharmacy.

Armed with the successful completion of UNM’s didactic courses on infectious diseases and research, I was excited to attend my second IDWeek conference as a pharmacy student. Understanding that a conference where one is surrounded by the most accomplished professionals in infectious diseases can be intimidating, IDWeek created a dedicated space for students to meet, mingle, and learn. In this lounge, I received advice on how to make the most of my time at the conference, learned how to approach mentors, and was instructed on how to market myself as a new professional.

During the poster sessions, I browsed the ID topics that I was most interested in and chatted with many of the presenters. The passion that the poster presenters had was quite infectious and I left excited to continue my studies and with a few questions for my professors at the college of pharmacy at UNM. I was also able to meet residency program directors of PGY2 programs that I am interested in applying to. I saw first-hand some of the research that is produced by the pharmacy residents that matriculate through these programs.

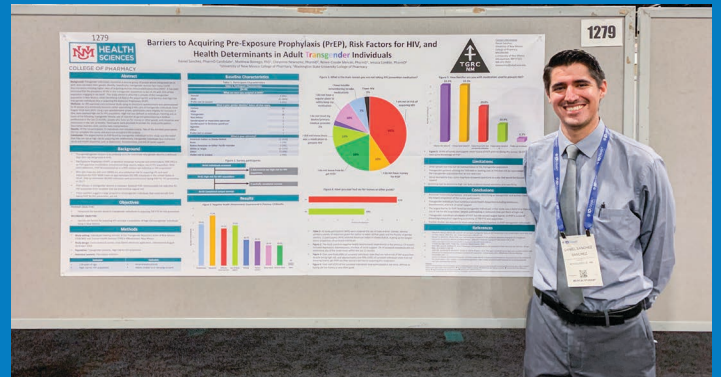
Finally, the best aspect of IDWeek was learning how to properly think through a medical problem. Memorizing facts is easy; synthesizing information and selecting the best drug is difficult. This is a concept that spans throughout pharmacy school. Presenters in “Big Beasts” walked the audience through the most difficult cases step-by-step. Hearing what information is pertinent, and why, is incredibly beneficial to me as a student.

I left IDWeek having grown both as a student interested in infectious diseases and as a student of pharmacy. Attending IDWeek, or any conference that is heavy in clinical information, as a student is a unique opportunity—though I would argue that it should not be!”

- **Beverly Anderson**  
*PharmD Candidate 2021*

“IDWeek was an inspiring and formative experience for me. Talking with experts about their work in the fields of pharmacy and infectious diseases from across the country connected me to new, exciting opportunities for my career after pharmacy school. I got to collaborate with professionals and students throughout the week and came up with ideas for future research projects and ways to enhance my current research. I am extremely thankful for this opportunity and eager to put the lessons from IDWeek into practice!”

- **Haedi DeAngelis**  
*PharmD Candidate 2023*



“Presenting at the last two IDWeek conferences has been a unique opportunity. The ability to interact with national and international experts in infectious disease from different disciplines opened my eyes to just how exciting and rewarding research can be. Cutting edge technology and new treatment modalities on the horizon are a regular part of the conference. To be a part of that as a student has been priceless.

The research we presented looked at barriers transgender individuals face in acquiring a medication used to prevent HIV acquisition. It was a privilege to work with an underserved population and share our data so that we can move forward to address the issue.”

- **Daniel Sanchez**  
*PharmD Candidate 2020*