



Dear Class of 2028,

On behalf of the Black Pharmacy Students' Association (BPSA), we would like to extend our warmest welcome and heartfelt congratulations to you on your acceptance into the PharmD program! Your rigorous efforts and countless hours of dedication have culminated in this incredible achievement, and you should be immensely proud. As you embark on this new journey, filled with joy and nervous anticipation, rest assured that you have a supportive community here to help every step of the way.

We are Camala Soliman and Hafza Ali, the current co-presidents of the BPSA. Founded in 2020, the vision of the BPSA is to increase Black representation and engagement across all facets of the Pharmacy profession. Since its inception, our mission focuses on three main objectives: representation, advocacy, and mentorship.

We aim to ensure an increased **representation** of both black students and staff in the faculty. We **advocate** for the **increased representation of black health in the curriculum to improve health disparities and inequities**. We also advocate for offering anti-racism education to students and preceptors and implementing safe disclosure policies for students experiencing racism and discrimination. Lastly, through our BPSA Mentorship Program, we provide guidance and support to prospective Black applicants, fostering a sense of community and building a strong network for both new and current members.

We understand that beginning your journey as a first-year student can be overwhelming. However, it is also an incredibly rewarding and transformative experience. The BPSA aims to enrich your student experience by providing professional development opportunities and numerous social events to help you connect with your peers. While it is essential to prioritize your academic responsibilities, we encourage you to engage in student life by joining clubs and participating in events.

The BPSA is Black-focused but not Black-exclusive. We offer a variety of inclusive events throughout the year, including our Let's Talk webinar series, Intersectional Literature Nights, Pop-up Clinic events, and Black History Month celebrations. We also provide Black students with a safe space to connect through events such as mixers, movie and game nights, and interdisciplinary events with other Black student groups at the University of Alberta. For more information on the BPSA, please check out our [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

Congratulations once again on your acceptance. We wish you all the best on your journey and look forward to supporting you.

Sincerely,

Hafza Ali and Camala Soliman