

The Pharmacologist

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A walk through
ASPET 2024
Advocacy. Diversity. Discovery.
May 16-19 • Arlington, VA



ASPET
Transforming Discoveries into Therapies

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On the Cover: A Recap of the ASPET 2024 Annual Meeting

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Message from the President



Share this!

Listen to [ASPET](#)'s new President, Dr. Carol Beck, as she introduces herself and highlights exciting updates happening at the Society.

Watch the video

Visit *The Pharmacologist* companion website for digital-only features and extras. thepharmacologist.org



A Note from Dave's Desk



ASPET's Strategic Plan: Authoritative Scientific Resource

Over the last two months, I highlighted the impact of the [2023–2027 ASPET Strategic Plan](#) when it comes to the Society serving as the “leading voice promoting the field” and “cultivating an inclusive and diverse culture.” This month, I want to focus on what the Society is doing to serve as an “Authoritative Scientific Resource” for pharmacology. ASPET aims to be the trusted source of scientific knowledge and information regarding the effectiveness and safety of drugs and therapeutic agents.

The primary method ASPET uses to serve as an authoritative scientific resource is its journals. A major change to ASPET's journals this past year is the [announcement of our new partnership with Elsevier](#). This new partnership, set to launch in 2025, will provide ASPET with the potential to elevate an already excellent author experience, provide more support and new tools to our reviewers and editors, and further expand the reach of our influential journals.

Along with setting the journals up for success into the future, the editors of the ASPET journals have been implementing new initiatives to ensure the Society's journals are impactful today. These initiatives include many Special Sections focused on hot topics in the field today (some examples include [Medical Countermeasures](#) and [Mechanism-Based Predictive Methods in Drug Metabolism and Disposition](#)), as well as the launch of the *JPET* Editorial Fellowship Program to build important skills as a peer reviewer and as an editor. These initiatives, along with the diligent efforts of all our journal editorial teams, have resulted in submissions increasing for all of ASPET's original research journals over the past year (no easy feat in this very competitive publishing environment).

Our annual meeting also serves as a major avenue for ASPET to serve as an authoritative scientific resource for pharmacology. With the goal of having the best possible science at the ASPET Annual Meeting, the Society puts significant focus and emphasis on encouraging our community to submit proposals. This focus paid off with the highest number of session proposals for an ASPET Annual Meeting since before COVID. At least in part to being able to select from so many worthy proposals, about 90% of ASPET 2024 Annual Meeting attendees were satisfied with the scientific excellence and novelty of speakers in sessions.

We hope you join us and help position ASPET as the authoritative scientific resource for the field of pharmacology.



Dave Jackson, MBA, CAE
Executive Officer, ASPET

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Cover Story



A walk through

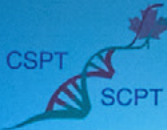
ASPET 2024

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Chapters Task Force

Reviewing and evaluating both the existing, and future, ASPET and chapter relationship and provide recommendations to ASPET Council to strengthen those relationships and provide value to our members



can build stronger partnerships between ASPET



Thank You for Making ASPET 2024 a Success!

Read and share this story online
[thepharmacologist.org](https://www.thepharmacologist.org)





← *The Opening Session Keynote Speaker, Dr. Marie Bernard, MD, discussed diversity in science in her role as Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity at the National Institutes of Health. The opening also included entertainment from the Washington, D.C. satire troupe Capitol Fools.*



Opening Session



→ On opening night, attendees were treated to an exclusive opportunity to tour the International Spy Museum in downtown Washington, D.C. During the relaxed, self-guided tour, attendees were able to learn about the espionage world of James Bond and other worldwide spies!

↓ ASPET 2024 volunteered at DC Central Kitchen in Washington, D.C.



→ Staff readied the ASPET store to prepare attendees for an opportunity to purchase their favorite ASPET gear. From T-shirts to water bottles to lunch bags, ties and scarves, ASPET will get you ready! A special raffle was available for attendees to enter that offered a free registration to ASPET 2025 and free hotel stay in Portland, Ore., an ASPET T-shirt and lots of other goodies!



↑ ASPET 2024 attendees celebrated and recognized nearly 200 awardees as 2023–24 ASPET President Dr. Namandjé Bumpus and 2023–24 ASPET President-Elect Dr. Carol Beck served as the MCs for the closing Awards Luncheon in Arlington, Va. Attendees marked the occasion by enjoying a luncheon, learning more about the awardees and receiving plaques, certificates and medals.

Continued on page 18



Leadership Profile

Share this!

ASPET leaders were front and center at ASPET 2024. The 2023–2024 President Dr. Namandjé Bumpus led the Opening Session, Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon.



Dr. Ashim Malhotra, ASPET Chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Committee, introduced Opening Session Keynote Speaker Dr. Marie A. Bernard, Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity at the National Institutes of Health.



2023–2024 ASPET President-Elect Dr. Carol Beck supported ASPET 2024 in various ways, including co-presenting numerous awards to recipients at the Awards Luncheon.



ASPET 2023–2024 Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Xinxin Ding delivered his report at the ASPET 2024 annual business meeting. Dr. Ding is also ASPET’s Drug Metabolism and Disposition Editor in Chief.



ASPET Executive Officer Dave Jackson oversaw many aspects of ASPET 2024, working with staff to manage meetings logistics, events, sessions and awards recognitions.





Member Highlights

Share this!

Credit: PhRMA Foundation



Carol Morris Receives a 2024 PhRMA Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship

The [PhRMA Foundation](#) has awarded ASPET member Carol Morris a 2024 Predoctoral Fellowship in Drug Discovery. Morris is a member of the ASPET Division for Drug Discovery and Development and is a graduate student at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Learn more about her research [here](#).

Daniel Sitar Inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Pharmacology and Therapeutics

Dr. Daniel Sitar has been inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Dr. Sitar has been an ASPET member for more than 45 years, is a member of the Division for Translational and Clinical Pharmacology and is currently serves as Professor Emeritus at the University of Manitoba, Canada.



Credit: BiomarkDiagnostics.com

Saranya Radhakrishnan Named to FASEB's Science Policy Committee

Saranya Radhakrishnan, PhD, has been chosen as an Early Career Representative on [FASEB's](#) Science Policy Committee. She also serves as the Chair of ASPET's Young Scientists Committee. She has been an ASPET member since 2019 and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the [National Institute of Mental Health](#).



Help shape the programming for the ASPET 2025 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Create a session proposal that showcases the most innovative trends in pharmacology.

Deadline to submit: August 29, 2024

[Learn More](#)

Interested in Being a Contributing Writer?

ASPET's *Pharmac* Corner blog and flagship magazine *The Pharmacologist* seek contributing writers on a rolling basis.

PHARMACO CORNER

Discussing Science. Discovering Cures.

Pharmac Corner is a dedicated space where pharmacology experts can discuss issues that affect them professionally and personally. The blog connects science and society through various pharmacology disciplines. Send your pitches to pharmacocorner@aspet.org.

The Pharmacologist

The Pharmacologist wants writers interested in contributing human interest and science stories focused on pharmacology. Contact us at thepharmacologist@aspet.org. Please include links to writing samples.



Upcoming Events

2024 ACCP Annual Meeting

October 12–15, 2024 · Phoenix, AZ

Join your peers at the 2024 ACCP Annual Meeting!

British Pharmacological Society Pharmacology 2024

December 10–12, 2024 · Harrogate, North Yorkshire

Network and hear the latest developments and research in pharmacology from industry experts and emerging investigators.

ASPET 2025 Annual Meeting

April 3–6, 2025 · Portland, OR

Advancing the Science of Drugs and Therapeutics. Join us in Portland!

ASPET 2026 Annual Meeting

May 17–20, 2026 · Minneapolis, MN

Join us in Minneapolis!

20th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology 2026

July 12–17, 2026 · Melbourne/Narrm, Australia

We will welcome the world's pharmacology and therapeutics community to the Melbourne Convention Centre in Melbourne/Narrm, Australia.



Advocacy Impact

Share this!

ASPET Capitol Hill Day



About 40 ASPET members and staff attended the Society's first stand-alone Capitol Hill Day on May 15, 2024. A total of 64 congressional meetings took place with 33 House visits, and 31 Senate visits with Members of Congress and staff covering 19 states and D.C.



ASPET Advocacy Workshop



ASPET's Government Affairs and Science Policy team led an Advocacy Science Workshop, where they simulated a vote with one individual sharing their compelling reasons for support. The workshop took place on the morning of May 16, prior to the annual meeting opening.



On Their Way...

Share this!

Each month, the editors of three of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) journals choose who they call their Highlighted Trainee Authors. These early-career scientists are recognized for their innovative research published in *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, *Drug Metabolism and Disposition*, and *Molecular Pharmacology*. This feature showcases selected young scientists, demonstrates what drives them and reveals why pharmacology is important to them.



Hannah Shaw

Hannah Shaw is a master's student through Drexel University School of Medicine and a trainee of the Fantegrossi Lab at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and has a strong passion for animals.

Shaw first became involved in research while completing her undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University.

"I worked as a student technician with an investigator in the Department of Pathobiology of the veterinary school. She maintained a breeding colony of Labrador Retrievers to study hereditary nephropathy, analogous to the human disease Alport's Syndrome," she explained. While there, Shaw witnessed firsthand how animal research was conducted, and she has continued in biomedical research since then.

Shaw's career development and decisions have been profoundly shaped by her mentor, Dr. William Fantegrossi. She says his guidance has created a lab environment that is nurturing, supportive and fosters collaboration, and that his support and encouragement has propelled her towards pursuing an advanced degree and sparked her interest in pharmacology.

She is interested in combining her passion for working with animals with her foray into research by choosing a program that will prepare her to become a veterinary scientist. "My ultimate goal would be to attend a dual degree program where I can earn both a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and PhD in pharmacology or a related discipline. I am looking to get in-depth specialized training to be used for emphasizing translational discoveries," Shaw explained.

She says that being published in an ASPET journal "is incredibly exciting and being a part of the roster of impactful pharmacologists makes me proud of my work." [Read her research](#) in the July issue of *The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*.



Beatriz Calle

Beatriz Calle is in her final year of her PhD at Imperial College London and the Francis Crick Institute. It was during her undergraduate years that she developed a fascination in the more

biological aspects of chemistry and taking various courses and conducting research.

Also, during these years, Calle received "guidance and mentorship from my research placement supervisor, Dr. Ioly Kotta-Loizou,

who was invaluable in cementing my resolve to pursue a career in biochemical research,” she said. “During my year in industry at AstraZeneca, my supervisors, Dr. Scott Martin and Dr. Beth Williamson, were instrumental in helping me refine my career path, including advising me of the value of a PhD in cancer research.”

Calle plans to finish her PhD and pursue a career in Oncology, particularly in the more translational aspects of cancer research. “It is a wide and exciting field to work in, so I look forward to whatever opportunities await within it.”

She “is honored” to have [her work published](#) in the July issue of *Drug Metabolism and Disposition*. “I am inspired by ASPET’s vision in developing safe and effective therapeutics for every disease. I really appreciate the opportunity to play a small part in contributing towards this mission and potentially helping improve the lives of patients for the better.”



Kaiyan Liu

Kaiyan Liu, PhD, is a research assistant in the Department of Urology, Zhejiang Provincial People’s Hospital, Affiliated People’s Hospital, Hangzhou Medical College,

Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China. Her interest in biomedical science began in high school after taking an advanced biology class.

“The complexity and elegance of the human body fascinated me, and I was particularly intrigued by how diseases affect biological processes,” Liu explained. “This early interest was solidified during a summer internship at a local hospital, where I had the opportunity to shadow biomedical researchers. Seeing the direct impact of their work on patient care inspired me to pursue this field.”

Liu credits her PhD mentor, Peng Huang, for profoundly influencing her career development and decisions, that helped her focus her doctoral research on cancer biology.

“The path I’ve taken has been shaped by a combination of early inspiration, hands-on research experiences, and a commitment to improving healthcare outcomes. I’m excited to continue this journey, pushing the boundaries of what we know and translating scientific discoveries into tangible benefits for patients,” she said.

Molecular Pharmacology recently [published her research](#) in its July issue. “Being published in an ASPET journal is a significant milestone in my career. ASPET journals are renowned for their rigorous peer-review process and high standards of scientific excellence,” Liu said.

“Having my research recognized and validated by such a prestigious publication is an honor and a testament to the quality and relevance of my work. Most importantly, it motivates me to continue striving for excellence and making meaningful contributions to this field.”



← ASPET President-Elect, Dr. Carol Beck and ASPET President, Dr. Namandjé Bumpus co-hosted the Business Meeting. ASPET Executive Officer, Dave Jackson and Past Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Xinxin Ding also presented at the Business Meeting.



Business Meeting





↓ Dr. Des Richardson presented his latest research during our Career Connect Coffee session. Representatives from various universities and scientific companies were also available to chat with attendees.



Career Center



Concurrent Sessions

↑ ASPET 2024 attendees had front row seats to the latest advances in pharmacology and experimental therapeutics, presented by the brightest minds in the field.



← **Early-career scientists presented their latest research in short presentations to ASPET attendees during our daily Data Blitz sessions in the poster hall.**



↑ **Dr. Brian Shoichet of the University of California, San Francisco, discussed recent applications to several targets where in vivo active leads have been developed for analgesia and for metabolic control, during his keynote session, “Following the Rabbit into Chemical Space,” at the annual meeting.**



↑ **Dr. Shehnaaz Suliman, CEO of ReCode Therapeutics, talked about the biotech industry in her keynote session titled “What’s Next in Biotech? Where Are We and Where Are We Headed?” at ASPET 2024.**

Keynotes

→ Division members were busy collaborating and sharing ideas during the dedicated sessions at the annual meeting.



Divisions





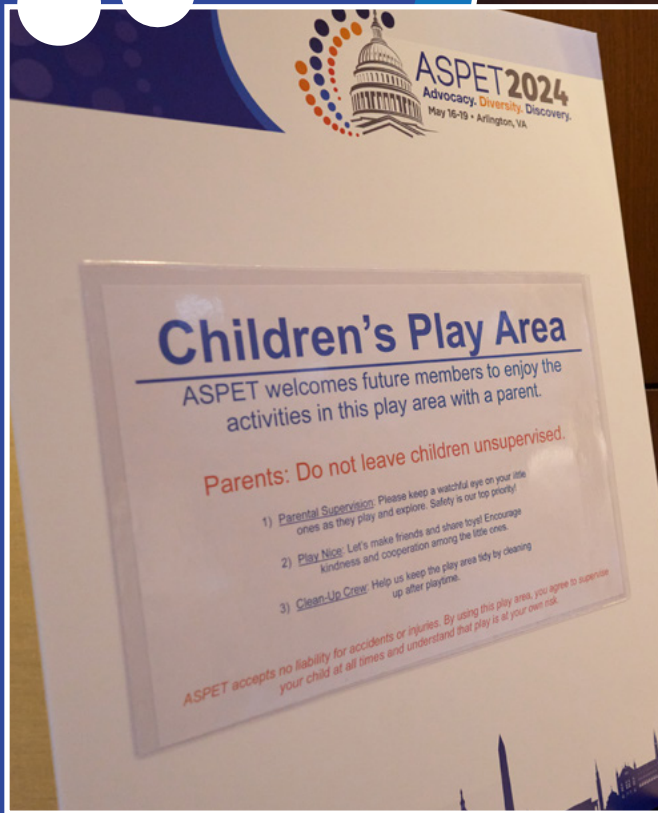
↑ *DMD executive committee member Dr. Julie Lade led a panel discussion of government experts discussing the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. Panelists were leaders from the Food and Drug Administration, National Cancer Institute, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.*



Government Leadership Panel: Cancer Moonshot Initiative

→ Christine Kim speaks at the Guppy Tank Translational Science Pitch Competition, a Shark Tank-type presentation where ASPET trainees pitched their science ideas to judges.

Guppy Tank



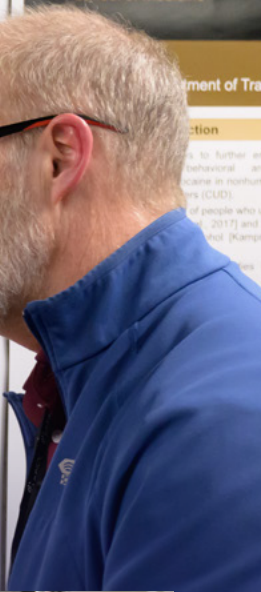
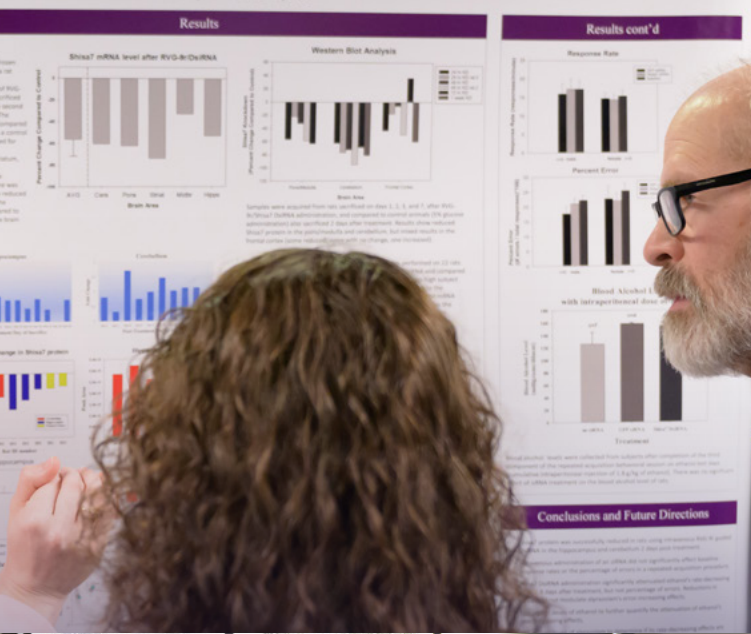
Kids Area

↑ ASPET parents had a place to entertain their kids in our Kids Area at the ASPET 2024 Annual Meeting.

→ Students from local Northwest High School in Montgomery County, Md. attended scientific sessions, poster presentations and met with ASPET members during ASPET 2024. These students are part of a biotechnology program for high schoolers.

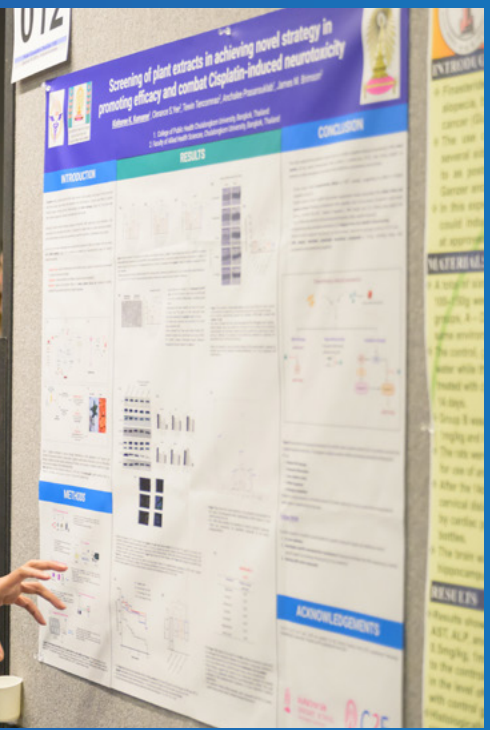
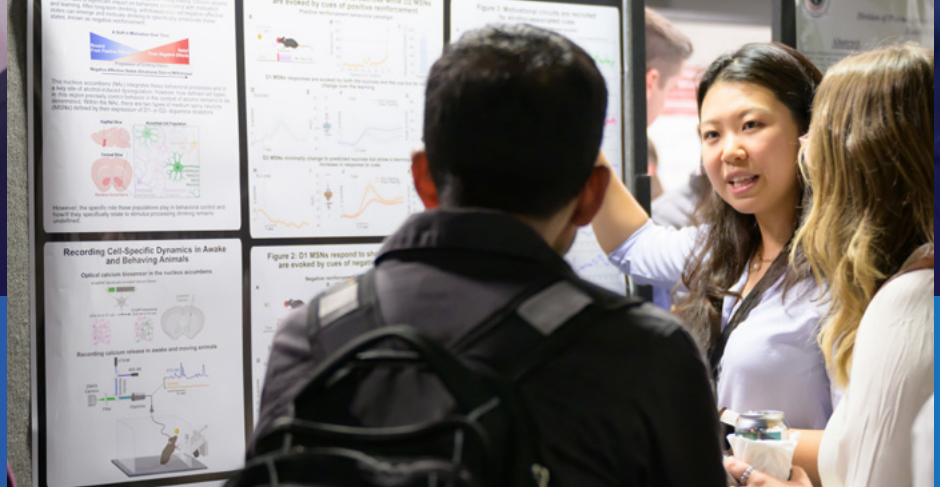


Northwest High School Students



Poster Sessions

→ Daily poster receptions were held for early-career scientists to present their latest research, where they met and talked with judges and other attendees interested in their work.





← ASPET Biotech Taskforce members Vrushank Bhatt (left) and Marcus Delatte (right), prepare to meet with attendees to chat about the goals of the task force and raise awareness that biotech, pharma and related private entities represent a rich pharmacology sector highly relevant to academic researchers' scientific focus, interests and careers.

↓ ASPET colleagues celebrated one another during the closing Awards Luncheon.

Awards Luncheon



→ *Washington Fellows 2023 cohorts Makenzie Patarino (left) and Alison Bashford (right) were ready to chat and recruit anyone interested in learning more about science policy advocacy and applying for the ASPET Washington Fellows program.*



Nominate a Member as a 2024 ASPET Fellow

Acknowledge your peers for their outstanding achievements in pharmacology! The ASPET Fellow designation is a prestigious honor bestowed on our members to recognize their meritorious achievements in advancing pharmacology through research, innovation, mentorship, education, policy, industry and/or contributions to the Society. Candidates must be current ASPET members in good standing at the Regular and/or Emeritus level for at least five cumulative years. Nominations for the 2024 ASPET Fellows program will close on September 3, 2024.

[Learn more](#)



ASPET journals editors and reviewers celebrated each other and their accomplishments at the ASPET 2024 Annual Meeting Journals Luncheon.



ASPET Publication Chair Dr. Ken Tew recognizes Dr. Mike Jarvis for his long-time service as Editor in Chief of ASPET's journal Pharmacological Reviews and Perspectives.



Do You Know Someone Deserving of an ASPET Award?

We are accepting applications and nominations for our Scientific Achievement and Division Awards. This is an opportunity to celebrate, honor and recognize your peers, colleagues and mentees for their contributions to pharmacology and experimental therapeutics. Award winners will be recognized at the ASPET 2025 Annual Meeting in Portland, Ore. The Scientific Achievement Awards are given either in specific areas of pharmacology or for the discipline in general. The Division Awards are sponsored by ASPET's divisions and honor members' contributions to a specific field in pharmacology.

Nominations for the 2025 ASPET Awards will close on September 3, 2024.

ASPET's 2024

Member-Get-A-Member Campaign

Help us recruit new members and contribute to the growth and sustainability of ASPET. As an active member, you understand the valuable benefits that ASPET membership offers. Your firsthand experience makes you an ideal advocate for encouraging others to join. This campaign is the perfect opportunity for you to share your success story and inspire others to become part of our community.

A growing ASPET means greater recognition for the field, more resources and support for our members, and a louder voice with policymakers.

Learn more about how it works [here](#).

Participate in the Member-Get-A-Member campaign to be entered into a raffle to win a prize. The more members you recruit, the higher the prize!





ASPET 2025

Advancing the Science of Drugs & Therapeutics
April 3 - 6 • Portland, OR

SAVE THE DATE

