

## **P4 Reflects on 1<sup>st</sup> APPE**

**Alejandra M. Rincon-Ponte** ('25) shares her thoughts after completing her very first APPE...

I was apprehensive about starting rotations, but I was also determined to learn from every situation and every pharmacist I encountered. My first Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) was with Amazon Pharmacy's Patient Safety team. Early in the experience, I was investigating medication-related events with my preceptor and the team. Throughout the process, I worked closely with the preceptor to keep them apprised of the cases being investigated and the analysis, then what safety concepts were applied after it was understood why the error occurred.

For this situation, there was a medication shipment that did not generate on time which resulted in a patient missing critical doses of their medication. Upon further review, it was found that this patient's error was coded as a high-severity event, which meant that 250 patient shipments were to be affected. The team developed a query to identify the impacted accounts, and then created a new procedure to analyze patient accounts and correct the errors, via a specific protocol.

It was rewarding to help identify an error early on so that other patients were able to maintain their adherence to their medication. I saw the synergy and success that comes from a team who together, make it their collective priority, to find a solution to a problem and prevent future recurrences. My final case presentation centered around this initial error. I was able to relate this issue to many other theoretical concepts learned such as; human error, the Swiss cheese model, first order and second order problem solving, and systems thinking.

This APPE exposed me to a new side of pharmacy. In this setting there was no direct patient interaction or review of lab values. In this setting, I experienced brainstorming and what it meant to implement safe and functional processes to provide patient care, *indirectly*. Before starting pharmacy school and even up until my P2 year, I didn't really grasp the importance of pharmacists and the profession. With the start of APPEs, I've been exposed to yet another side of pharmacy that is integral to safe and effective patient care. It has refreshed my perspective on the importance of my career and reignited my passion for healthcare. The "5 rights" of medication use and the Pharmacist's Patient Care Process (PCPP) do not ever change – what changes is the way pharmacists use them.