

FRS 263700
University of Connecticut
School of Pharmacy
Office of Experiential Education
372 Fairfield Road, Unit 2092
Storrs, CT 06269-2092

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STORRS, CT
PERMIT No.36

Rewards for Preceptors

Do you have the right stuff?

We often hear from preceptors that they find it very rewarding to participate in the experiential programs...

Many schools of pharmacy are currently facing the challenge of sustaining and finding sufficient experiential education offerings. This increased demand for good quality rotations has placed an increased need for pharmacy mentors in a variety of practice settings.

Sharing your pharmacy practice setting with students can be a very rewarding and fulfilling experience in your professional career. Students can provide enthusiasm, interest, and eagerness to learn to your practice site. We often hear from preceptors that they find it very rewarding to participate in the experiential programs and that they feel good about shaping the future of the profession of pharmacy.



If you know of any pharmacists or other health care providers interested in participating in our experiential programs please have them contact our Office of Experiential Education. We can discuss with them our program objectives and expectations for our experiential rotations.

School of Pharmacy



PRECEPTOR News

Fall 2004 Experiential Education Newsletter

University of Connecticut

Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the re-introduction of our newly revised edition of the UConn Preceptor News. One of the main goals of this newsletter is to keep our Adjunct Faculty and Faculty members updated regarding the latest changes in our Experiential Education Program. We also plan on doing segments that focus on specific pharmacy practice sites and preceptors that the School of Pharmacy uses for the education of our pharmacy students. Maybe you'll read about your practice site in our next newsletter. I hope that you find this publication interesting and informative and as a conduit to our Office of Experiential Education.

I would like to thank some of the individuals who have been assisting me in my transition into my new position. In particular, I'd like to thank Dean Robert L. McCarthy, for his unyielding support and motivating attitude. Also, I am grateful to the staff of the Office of Experiential Education especially Mary Ann Phaneuf, Andy LaCombe and Mary Petruzzi for their dedication and exemplary efforts throughout the year. These individuals are great role models for our pharmacy students and are assets to our School of Pharmacy.

"You are helping to shape the future of the profession of pharmacy through our aspiring students."

Pharmacy schools provide students experiential education in many forms, but they are offered into two main categories. Introductory Practice Experiences (IPE) and Advanced Practice Experiences (APE). Many

students refer to the experiences as "rotations" or "clerkships," so you may hear these terms used interchangeably. In general, the IPE occur during the pharmacy students "first professional year" (P-1) year through P-3 years in pharmacy school. The introductory experiences are generally shorter in length and are divided over an entire semester where the

pharmacy student visits a pharmacy practice site only once or twice a week.

Advanced experiences are conducted during the final "senior" or P-4 year of pharmacy school. Most pharmacy schools have

Continued on Page 3 ■



Inside this edition...

Dean's Letter	Page 2
Spotlight	Page 4
Career Services	Page 5
CE Update	Page 6
Preceptor Dinner	Page 6-7
Preceptor Rewards	Back cover



University of
Connecticut

School of Pharmacy
Office of Experiential
Education
372 Fairfield Road
Unit 2092
Storrs, CT 06269-2092

www.pharmacy.uconn.edu



A Letter from the Dean



Dear Preceptors:

I am pleased to share with you a few thoughts as we re-introduce our Experiential Education newsletter. You will recall that Pat Toce produced a newsletter several times a year during her tenure as Experiential Education Director. It was so well received by our preceptors that we decided

to re-introduce it as a semi-annual publication of the School. The Experiential Education newsletter will be another in a series of communications from the School of Pharmacy that will include our Annual Report, a school newsletter, and HuskyScripts, our pharmacy alumni newsletter. The purpose of all of these publications is to keep our alumni and friends better informed about the happenings at the School of Pharmacy. In my column for this newsletter, I will focus on experiential education, but also provide some School-wide highlights and news.

We were thrilled when Dr. Philip Hritcko agreed to join us as Director of Experiential Education last November. Phil brings to the position experience in both community and institutional pharmacy practice and has done a wonderful job thus far. In recruiting a new director, we converted the position from staff to non-tenure-track faculty, consistent with many other schools and colleges of pharmacy. Thus, Phil also holds the title Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice. I know that many of you have had a chance to work with Phil and for those of you who have not yet had the pleasure, I'm certain that once you do you'll be as thrilled with him as we are.

I want to offer my sincere thanks to Mary Ann Phaneuf, Andy LaCombe, and Mary Petruzzi for their outstanding work in overseeing the experiential education program between Pat's departure and Phil's arrival. We are indeed pleased to have such a talented and dedicated group of individuals working in what we are now officially calling the "Office of Experiential Education." I am also pleased to announce that Mary Ann Phaneuf has been promoted to Assistant Director of Continuing Education and Experiential Education. In this new role, Mary Ann works closely with Phil and CE Director Dr. Henry Palmer. Those of you who have worked with Mary Ann over the years know of her incredible work ethic and ever-present smile. Her new role is well deserved and long overdue.

As many of you know, Joe Cerreto retired last year as part of the State's early retirement program. The University has now returned part of Joe's salary to us and we have decided to combine these funds with income from our CE programs to create a new staff position: Coordinator of Educational Outreach. This position will be involved with supporting our CE and experiential education programs (especially preceptor development) and community outreach activities. Recruitment for this exciting opportunity is underway.

By now, many of you have heard about the Pharmacy Education Management System (PEMS) that was implemented last spring. PEMS allows us to place our entire experiential education system on-line, including student, preceptor, and site evaluations. We are very pleased with the system thus far and

Continued on Page 4 ■

Message from the Director, *continued from front cover*

students complete six to nine rotations and each rotation can last in duration anywhere from four to eight weeks. These advanced experiences are situated over a variety of pharmacy practice settings, for example Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire and the FDA in Washington D.C to Kanakanak Hospital in Alaska.

At the UConn School of Pharmacy we require our P-4 pharmacy students to complete nine APE during their senior year. Of the nine advanced experiences, four are required rotations (ex. Community Pharmacy, Hospital Pharmacy, Ambulatory Care Pharmacy and General Medicine). The remaining five APE are electives of which two must involve direct patient care activities. Every P-4 pharmacy student is required to log a minimum of 160 hours for each of their four week clerkships.

Prior to the change in the Pharm.D. curriculum from the BS program, a school of Pharmacy with 100 students needed to schedule approximately 200-300 rotations per year. Today, our School of Pharmacy must schedule 800-1000 APE rotations alone each year. All pharmacy schools throughout the Northeast have similar APE requirements and as a result competition for good quality sites has increased throughout the region.

The experiential education programs at the UConn School of Pharmacy account for at least 25% of the Pharm.D. curriculum. This has increased our need for preceptors who are willing to become mentors, teachers, and role models for our pharmacy students. Our Office of Experiential Education is very eager to establish long-term relationships with experienced pharmacists in a variety of practice settings. We need individuals who are willing to impart their professional knowledge and guide pharmacy students through on-site experiential education.

As I reflect back during this past year we have accomplished some new initiatives which have strengthened our experiential education program. We implemented a new system this past spring known as Pharmacy Education Management System (PEMS)

which has increased our Office's efficiency by assisting in scheduling of rotations and allowing us to communicate much more easily with preceptors and students. PEMS also offers the preceptor the ability to view their site's rotation schedule, enter evaluations of students online, review student attendance logs, e-mail students and read announcements and messages online. These are just a few of the many features offered by this management system.

We also have developed our own web page for the Office of Experiential Education. This web page is attached to the UConn School of Pharmacy web page at www.pharmacy.uconn.edu. Items on this web page contain specific program information and contact information for our Office of Experiential Education. This information will assist individuals in having a better

understanding of our program requirements and expectations.

One of our future goals at the UConn School of Pharmacy is to develop preceptor training programs to assist preceptors in their roles as teachers, mentors, and evaluators. Most preceptors have been trained as practitioners, not as teachers, and many need guidance in preparing themselves for a teaching role. One of my goals is to better prepare and support our preceptors for their roles as educators of pharmacy students. My goal is to utilize the new position of Coordinator of Educational Outreach to assist our Office of Experiential Education in developing and implementing these training programs.



Continued on Page 5 ■

Introducing the Office of Experiential Education staff ...pictured from left to right: Phil Hritcko, Mary Ann Phaneuf, Mary Petruzzi, and Andre La Combe.

PRECEPTOR News, the Experiential Education newsletter for the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut, is published semiannually, in the fall and spring. Please send feedback to: Dr. Phil Hritcko, Director, Office of Experiential Education, UConn School of Pharmacy, 372 Fairfield Road, Unit 2092, Storrs, CT 06269-2092; philip.hritcko@uconn.edu; (860) 486-1592.



Connecticut Poison Control Center "Spotlight" on Professional Experience Sites

By Andre LaCombe, R.Ph., CGP
Field Coordinator

This issue of the newsletter focuses on the Connecticut Poison Control Center located at the UConn Health Center in Farmington, CT.

The Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) was established in 1957 to provide statewide 24-hour toxicology management consultations, monitor the epidemiology of poisoning, administer poison prevention programs and provide public and professional education. The CPCC is staffed by a variety of healthcare professionals which includes physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists.

The CPCC is one of the many favorite sites of the UConn P-4 pharmacy students. Seventeen P-4's have registered to complete a rotation at the CPCC in the 2004-2005 school year. Responding to poison emergency calls, under the supervision of a poison control specialist, is one of the primary responsibilities of the pharmacy student during this toxicology rotation. The pharmacy students learn the critical role of providing timely poisoning information, especially relating to prescription and over-the-counter drug products. The students learn the rational and systematic approaches to the diagnosis and treatment of a poisoned patient.

Additionally, students will participate in rounds with the toxicology consultant service at Hartford Hospital, evaluate patients with the toxicology health care team in the toxicology clinic at the UConn Health Center and attend emergency medicine and toxicology conferences as

scheduled. At the conclusion of the rotation students are expected to prepare and present a report on a toxicant or group of toxicants to the toxicology team.

The primary preceptor for the Toxicology rotation at CPCC is Iris Barko, R.N. Iris receives much support from a variety of other healthcare professionals including Bernard Sangalli, M.S, Marc Bayer, M.D., Charles McKay, M.D. and Jason Vena, M.D.

All of us at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy greatly appreciate the dedication that these individuals demonstrate with our pharmacy students. They provide an essential service not only to our communities but also to the education of our pharmacy students. ■



Dean's Letter, *continued from Page 2*

look forward to your suggestions and comments. I want to express my thanks to Phil and his staff for their hard work in making PEMS at UConn a reality.

Phil has also assumed oversight for our introductory pharmacy practice experience sequence. As many of you are aware who have precepted students in the sequence, the program as it existed was not fully achieving the outcomes both you and we desire. Consequently, under the guidance of Drs. Jennifer James and Sean Jeffery, significant changes, which were largely well received, were made this past year. The evolution of the sequence will continue this year and in the immediate future with our new professional curriculum expected to be adopted by the faculty in October.

The 2003-04 academic year was a very successful one for the School of Pharmacy. I'd like to share just a few highlights. The new Pharmacy/Biology Building is on schedule for a fall 2005 opening. The School has received its first endowed chair: The Pfizer Distinguished Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology. Drs. Kevin Chamberlin (internal medicine/pharmacy practice), Olga Vinogradova (medicinal chemistry/pharmaceutical sciences), and Lauren Schlesselman (part-time/pharmacy practice) joined the faculty this fall. The School has also begun a partnership with the New Haven Public Schools, Walgreens, and Boehringer Ingelheim to increase the number of inner city and underrepresented minority students who choose pharmacy as a career.

As you can see, much has been happening in the Office of Experiential Education and the School at-large. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our program. Without your mentorship and guidance, we would be unable to offer the quality educational experience that has made us a nationally recognized program.

Regards,

Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor

Employment/Career Services Activities for the 2004-2005 Academic Year

By Kenneth A. Speranza, Ph.D., Associate Dean

Each year the School of Pharmacy conducts a three-phase employment /career services program for the students. The specific activities that occur in this program are a Career Night, a Job Fair and an Interview Day.

The Career Night is co-sponsored with the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. The purpose of this program is to provide our students with information about the many career opportunities available to them as practitioners. Pharmacists practicing in different career areas provide this information.

The Job Fair is more focused than the Career Night. Potential employers are

invited to the School to discuss career opportunities within their organizations.

Organizations that typically participate in this program are pharmacy chains, independent pharmacies, hospitals, managed-care organizations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, the U.S. Armed Services and Public Health Service and residency programs.

The Interview Day is the most focused of the three programs and is only open to the senior students (P4). All of the students are excused from

their clinical rotations to participate in this program. Pharmacy organizations with specific job openings are invited to interview our students on this day. The University Career Services Office assists the School in this program by conducting resume writing and interviewing classes for the students and scheduling their interviews through the eRecruiting system. Many of the pharmacy organizations that participate in the Job Fair also participate in the Interview Day. ■



**2004-2005
Employment/
Career Program**

Interview Day
October 21, 2004

Job Fair
February 10, 2005

Career Night
April 12, 2005

Message from the Director, *continued from Page 3*

I would also like to re-establish the UConn School of Pharmacy Advisory Board for Experiential Education. This Advisory Board was originally established to provide advice and counsel to the Dean and Director of Experiential Education in achieving our vision to provide educationally sound experience opportunities in all areas of pharmacy practice to our pharmacy students. I plan on reconvening the Advisory Board in the near future to assist our Office in developing and retaining high quality experience rotations.

In closing I would especially like to thank you, the preceptor, for all the support that you offer our School of Pharmacy and our pharmacy students. Without your

dedication and commitment to support our Experiential Education Programs we would not be able to expose our students to such a diverse and challenging variety of practice settings. You are helping to shape the future of the profession of pharmacy through our aspiring students.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Hritcko, Pharm.D., CACP
Director, Experiential Education and
Assistant Clinical Professor

The 3rd Annual UConn School of Pharmacy Preceptor Appreciation Dinner

Please Mark Your Calendars!

The 3rd Annual University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy Preceptor Appreciation Dinner, sponsored by Pfizer, Inc., will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2004 at The Marriott of Rocky Hill, CT from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

Preceptors are an integral part of the Pharmacy Experiential Program. Experiential site learning is a critical component of the Doctor of Pharmacy program. It allows the student to take their didactic knowledge from the classroom and apply it to the real world. As preceptors, you serve as role models, experts, facilitators and consultants for our pharmacy students. You play a vital function to assist the student bridge this transition. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of practitioners willing to be preceptors to our students in every type of practice arena.

This dinner is one way for the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy faculty, staff and students to say thank you. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Thomas Buckley, clinical education consultant from Pfizer Inc., will present a one-hour law CE program after dinner.

Please fill out the return form for the dinner and mail or fax to Mary Ann by Monday, October 18, 2004. Thank you again for all of your help with our teaching efforts. Hope to see you on October 28th!



CE Events

**2004
October 8**
Disaster Preparedness and the Role of Pharmacists Program

December 29
Henry Palmer CE Finale

**2005
May 18**
Arthur E. Schwarting Pharmacy Practice Symposium

Continuing Education Update

*By Mary Ann Phaneuf
Assistant Director of Experiential Education and Continuing Education*

We have set the dates for our two annual continuing education events. Please mark your calendars. The Henry Palmer CE Finale will be held on Wednesday, December 29, 2004 here at the University of Connecticut's Bishop Center. The program will offer an array of topics and yes – there will be a program on law. The Arthur E. Schwarting Pharmacy Practice Symposium will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2005. The topic for this program will focus on cardiovascular disease and drugs. It also will be held here at the University of Connecticut's Rome Hall in South Campus. Detailed announcements will be mailed out six to seven weeks prior to each program.

In addition the School will co-sponsor a program with the Connecticut Pharmacists

Association in October 8, 2004 at the Cromwell Courtyard Marriott. The program will focus on "Disaster Preparedness and the Role of Pharmacists." For registration information, please visit www.CTPharmacists.org.

In the near future, we would like to plan some continuing education programs regarding the experiential program for our preceptors. Our initial thoughts are possibly on mentoring and how to effectively evaluate students. If you have some suggestions that may be helpful to you or your site in dealing with the experiential program, please let us know. You can e-mail me your ideas at mary.phaneuf@uconn.edu or call me at (860) 486-2130.

We are also developing our web site on the School of Pharmacy home page: www.pharmacy.uconn.edu. We plan on offering continuing education programs through this site.

University of Connecticut
School of Pharmacy

3rd Annual Preceptor Appreciation Dinner

DINNER RSVP

Full Name: _____
First Name for Nametag: _____
Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____
Affiliation: _____

Please choose your complimentary dinner of:

- Chicken Mediterranean
*Boneless Breast of Chicken with
Black Olives, Artichoke Hearts &
Sundried Tomatoes, tossed with Penne Pasta*
- Eggplant Parmesan
Served with a Light Tomato Sauce

Please indicate your participation in the CE program:

- Yes, I will be staying for the CE program.
 No, I will not be able to stay.

(Please return completed form to the address below.)

All Entrees include: Choice of Salad, Chef's Selection of Fresh Market Vegetables and Starch, Rolls, Butter, Dessert, Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, and Specialty Teas. Soft Drinks available for an additional \$1.50.



Please return your reservation by
October 18, 2004 to:

Mary Ann Phaneuf
University of Connecticut
School of Pharmacy
372 Fairfield Road, Unit 2092
Storrs, CT 06269-2092
or
Fax to (860) 486-9095

DEADLINE FOR RSVP is OCTOBER 18, 2004

We hope you can join us at
The Marriott of Rocky Hill, CT
Thursday, October 28, 2004
6:00 pm to 9:30 pm.