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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.

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.

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.



Pictured at Right: Preceptors Dr. Chandra Cooper and Dr. Kimber Walter from Yale New Haven Hospital.

School of Pharmacy



PRECEPTOR News

Winter 2005/2006 Experiential Education Newsletter

University of Connecticut

Message from the Director



As I write this message, the fall semester is winding down and the holiday season is upon us. Since our last edition of Preceptor News many exciting events have occurred. During the summer months, we moved into the new Pharmacy/Biology Building and held our building dedication this past October.

We are all extremely grateful to work in this state-of-the-art facility and to have the opportunity to prepare the next generation of pharmacy practitioners.

This is a good time to reflect on some of the activities that are influencing the area of experiential education and our future direction. In June 2005, the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) proposed a draft revision of the standards for the Professional Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. The ACPE is the accrediting body for all Schools/Colleges of Pharmacy throughout the United States. This draft revision

included, for the first time, a separate standard to ensure quality in experiential education. The final version of these accreditation standards is due to be released in January 2006.

“Experiential education is under constant review to ensure quality and to meet the challenges of this dynamic area.”

Also this past June, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) convened the AACP Academic Practice Partnership Initiative Summit to advance experiential education in pharmacy. This national summit brought together representatives from a wide spectrum of the profession including pharmacy practice, regulation, professional organizations, and education. The

purpose of this summit was to define and prioritize strategies in the following key areas: increasing the quantity of exemplary experiential learning sites across the United States; recruiting and training qualified experiential faculty

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Sarah Caley applauds her father's award as Faculty Preceptor of the Year with Dr. Henry Palmer and dad, Dr. Charles Caley.

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Students Provide Assistance with Medicare Part D

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act was passed on December 8, 2003. As a part of this historic change to Medicare, people participating in the program became eligible for prescription drug coverage on January 1, 2006. According to Peter Tyczkowski, Educational Outreach Coordinator for the School of Pharmacy, "This is a government program but the prescription coverage is run by a number of private sector companies. This plan gives the elderly a lot of options, builds competition and hopefully will make medications more affordable for these patients."

The controversy surrounding this plan is its implementation. The number of choices offered and the differences between the plans, make the program so confusing that many elderly will forego the benefits by avoiding enrollment. In Connecticut alone there are 44 plans from which to choose. In addition, the application process is somewhat challenging, offering a variety of paper forms or an online enrollment method. The majority of elderly are not computer or internet savvy. This unique combination of a major change in benefits, offering a number of different choices, and affecting a fragile population with limited ability to access and utilize technology, created an opportunity for the School of Pharmacy to get involved. Tyczkowski identified this as an opportunity for the School to become a resource to assist people with Medicare.

In October 2005, eight students together with Dr. Philip Hritcko and Tyczkowski attended the American Pharmacists Association Medicare Part D Enrollment for Community Pharmacy Regional Conferences

held in Boston, Massachusetts. Student attendee, Kathryn Dziedzic, who is on the executive board for the University of Connecticut's chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), was grateful for the opportunity. "The Medicare Part D Plan is going to affect many of our patients. I knew that they would have many questions when they came into the community pharmacy where I work. I attended the meeting in Boston so that I could be a resource for patients. The conference included two speakers from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services that explained the plan, and to answer questions. They broke the plan up and went through it piece by piece, which was very helpful." In addition, the conference helped those attending better understand the new Medicare benefit and prepare people to help people with Medicare choose a drug plan wisely.

After the conference, the School of Pharmacy, working with the student APhA-ASP group organized and hosted a Medicare presentation and panel discussion for the Pharmacy students. Moderated by Alison Smith, a P3 student, the panel included: Michele Vilaret, Director of Government Programs Brooks Eckerd Pharmacy;



Peter Tyczkowski
Educational Outreach
Coordinator

Licensing Reference Tool

Storrs, CT -- In August 2005, Katherine Stafford, a 2006 Pharm.D. candidate, completed an Advanced Practice Experience rotation at the Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA.) The CPA is a voluntary professional society open to all licensed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and others interested in furthering its objectives. Their mission is to unite the profession of pharmacy in Connecticut for mutual advancement, assistance, and improvement so they may thereby benefit professionally, economically, and socially and to assist pharmacists to achieve the best possible health outcomes for their patients.

During her rotation, Katherine developed a Licensing Reference Tool for her school project. The idea came to her when she was assisting in the office, "I found it confusing and time consuming to visit the different web sites for every state to find their licensing requirements. I decided that it would be more convenient if all the states information were on one site. I developed a "rough draft" of what I thought would be useful information and submitted it to my preceptor, Margherita Giuliano. I then constructed a 'questionnaire' and e-mailed it out to the contacts for each state board of pharmacy. When I was finished, I had compiled an extensive reference guide that had the licensing requirements for each state."

Katherine's License Reference Tool can be found on the CPA website under the student link. CPA gained a valuable resource through Katherine and she in turn, gained valuable experiences through them. "I have seen how important and influential the state pharmacy associations are. They are truly an essential aspect of our profession that I feel everyone should be a part of. Even if you do not feel you have time to take an active role in the association, they are still a valuable resource", says Stafford.

Medicare Part D ~ continued from page 3

help them understand someone's needs and existing drug coverage, with the goal of maximizing the potential of the new Medicare benefit while making the best use of their existing benefits. The presentations were followed by a question and answer panel discussion where students were encouraged to ask more about Medicare and charged with the goal of seeking out ways they could serve the community by utilizing their knowledge to help people with Medicare better understand the new drug benefit and make a wise plan choice.

In December 2005, the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services approached the School of Pharmacy desiring to help people participating in ConnPace, who also have Medicare. Seeking to ease the burden on their patients by helping them choose a suitable Medicare Part D drug plan, Deputy Commissioner Michael Starkowski, realized the potential benefit of having students assist in the evaluation of plans. Over four thousand blinded patient medication records were provided to 85 students who used the Medicare web-based plan finder and formulary finder tools to seek out the three most beneficial Medicare Part D drug plans for each patient. This work assisted ConnPace participants by suggesting drug plans that will cover their medications, thereby minimizing potential problems caused by formulary issues when the patients go to their local pharmacy. "In the end," said Tyczkowski, "it was so rewarding to see that our efforts and the things we learned back in September and October, were put to good use by our students in addition to providing an important and valuable service to the community."

4th Annual Preceptors Appreciation Dinner



Our 4th Annual Preceptor Appreciation Dinner, sponsored by Pfizer Inc., was held on October 6, 2005 at the new Pharmacy/Biology Building. A special thanks to Thomas E. Buckley, Clinical Education Consultant, Pfizer Inc. for his participation and whose generous support made this event possible.

Each year the School of Pharmacy recognizes two preceptors for the Preceptor of the Year Award, sponsored by Roche Laboratories. The two individual preceptors, one a full time faculty and the other an adjunct faculty member, were selected in conjunction with nominations from the pharmacy class of 2005. These individuals were presented with this award for recognition of their outstanding contributions to the educational development of future pharmacists by demonstrating high standards of professionalism, ethics and clinical practice.



Dr. Amanda Volpe, [pictured above left with Karen Scinto,] a Clinical Pharmacist at Saint Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was this year's adjunct faculty member award recipient. Dr. Charles Caley, [pictured at left with his family,] an Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Psychopharmacology Consultant at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut, was this year's faculty member award recipient. Congratulations to both Dr. Caley and Dr. Volpe for their outstanding service to the educational development of our future pharmacy practitioners. ■



Top Row [L to R]: James Gallagher and Mary Ann Phaneuf; Kevin Chamberlin and Sherm Gershman; Deanna Sojo, Andy Sepio, Ruth Lerro, and Katie Myers. Bottom Row [L to R]: Joanna and Bogdan Musial; Karen Hoang and Pete Sposato; Phil Hritcko, Therese Seo and Karen Wall.

Message from the Director ~ continued from front cover

members and preceptors; elevating the quality of care delivered at experiential learning sites; streamlining processes for preceptor recruitment, training, assessment, communications, and feedback; and ensuring that experiential learning in pharmacy contains skills, values, and attributes related to the five core competencies that all health professionals should possess (e.g. provide patient-centered care, work in interdisciplinary teams, employ evidence-based practice, apply quality improvements and utilize informatics). The summit proceedings were recently published and are being disseminated to a wide variety of organizations, especially offices of experiential education.

One of the recommendations of this summit was the pooling of resources in various regions of the country. In response, this past September, we convened the New England Regional Directors of Pharmacy Experiential Education (NERDEE) meeting at the University of Connecticut, School of Pharmacy. Representatives from the

Students actively participate in community service programs

University of Rhode Island (URI), Northeastern University (NE), Massachusetts College of Pharmacy (MCP) Boston, MCP Worcester, and the University of Connecticut began to work together

toward solutions on common issues in our region in the area of experiential education. We have since held meetings at the URI and Northeastern campuses and are planning to meet again in April.

The area of experiential education is under constant review to ensure quality and to meet the challenges of this dynamic area. I would like to

thank all of you who are actively supporting our experiential programs. Your dedication and commitment throughout the year has been invaluable to our program. Through your participation in our experiential programs you are helping to shape the future of the profession of pharmacy through our aspiring students.

Sincerely,

Pictured Below: School of Pharmacy Students at the American Pharmacists Associations Medicare Part D Enrollment for Community Pharmacy Regional Conference in Boston, MA. Back Row: Ben Enos, Amy Kelder, Dr. Philip Hritcko, Jennifer Tan, Kathryn Myers, Meghan Scagliarini, and Alison Smith. Front Row: Kathryn Dziedzic, Jennifer Morrone, and Crystal Bissonette.

Medicare Part D ~ continued from page 2

Judith Stein, Esquire, Executive Director Center for Medicare Advocacy; Adele Pietrantonio, Pharmacist Medical Operations Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Margherita Giuliano, Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association; and David Crosby, a P4 Pharmacy Student.

Presentations were provided by David Crosby and Adele Pietrantonio. Crosby gave an overview to the students. "My goal was to simplify this as much as possible, but at the same time, I wanted to prepare them for questions that they might be asked in the community. I started off with an introduction of its origin and an explanation of the terminology. I broke down the standard and low-income benefits. I also went into how the plan affects those that currently have drug coverage through an employer, ConnPace recipients, and those residing in long-term care facilities," said Crosby. Pietrantonio's presentation offered suggestions on how to help participants choose a Medicare drug plan. She shared with the students a series of questions they could ask to



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New Faculty



Storrs, CT -- Dr. Jennifer Lee, a 2004 graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, has joined the team as a clinical faculty member. She lectures at the school and practices at the VA Connecticut Health Care System, Women's Health Center in West Haven, Connecticut.

Dr. Lee is establishing a new rotation site in Ambulatory Care at the Women's Health Center.

Currently, there are no rotations in

Women's Health and offering a rotation in this growing practice area provides a wonderful opportunity for our students.

Dr. Lee's pharmacy clinic offers many valuable resources to the physicians. Her responsibilities include: monitoring quality of life and therapeutic outcomes between patients' scheduled appointments; providing patient education such as medication administration techniques, life-style modification, home monitoring, assisting in identifying potential drug-drug, drug-food, and drug-disease interactions; providing in-services for the medical staff; and serving as a resource for drug information questions.

The students on rotation will shadow Dr. Lee while she conducts interviews. After they gain experience and confidence, they will conduct the interviews under her guidance. The students' other responsibilities include: knowing and applying the guidelines for blood pressure and cholesterol; JNC7; NCP – ATP III; diabetes; and analyzing and interpreting laboratory data appropriate to the patient's conditions and current medications. They will also gain experience writing clear and concise SOAP notes including a detailed assessment of the patient's condition based on established guidelines and evidence-based medicine, as well as devising an appropriate therapeutic plan including medications, appropriate labs, and follow-up.

"The students will be taking what they learned in the classroom and applying it to real life situations. Through direct patient interaction, students will come to realize that real patients are not textbook examples. Each patient deserves an individualized therapeutic plan based on their medications, allergies/adverse effects, past medical history, pill burden and compliance, cost, life-style, laboratory data, drug interactions, etc. By the end of this rotation, I hope that students will develop a sense of looking at the big picture when designing, implementing, and monitoring their therapeutic care plans," says Dr. Lee. ■

Students Participate in Bio-terrorism Drill



Last fall, School of Pharmacy students participated in a regional bio-terrorism drill. Students will be participating in these drills again this spring.



Save the Date !

May 17, 2006
Arthur E. Schwarting
Pharmacy Practice Symposium

This year's theme for the symposium is "Innovations in Pharmacy Practice – Meeting Future Needs." Speakers will cover topics relating to entrepreneurs, collaborative practice with physicians, industry's views and medication therapy management with prescription and non-prescription medication. If you are an active preceptor at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, you will be able to attend the symposium at half price. The brochure and program information will be available on the School of Pharmacy website – www.pharmacy.uconn.edu by March 2006.

Visit our website under continuing education for homestudy programs that are available at no cost.



"Spotlight" on Professional Experience Sites

The Naval Ambulatory Care Center

By Jessica Ferraro

The Naval Ambulatory Care Center in Groton, CT is an outpatient medical treatment facility that provides primary medical care for active duty, retirees, and eligible family members. For the past two years, students from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy have been participating in rotations at the Ambulatory Care Center as part of their experiential education. Each semester, on a monthly rotation, the Center welcomes two students, one from the University of Connecticut and one from the University of Rhode Island.

During the rotation, the students are under the supervision of Lieutenant Commander [LtCdr] Edward Moldenhauer, the Pharmacy Program Manager of Naval Health Care New England. LtCdr Moldenhauer is also the head of all Navy pharmacies in New England, and he teaches at the Pharmacy Technician Program at the University of Connecticut College of Continuing Studies. "Through both the Ambulatory Care Center and the College of Continuing Studies, I am given the opportunity to share my knowledge with future pharmacists. This is my favorite aspect; working with students. I hope to always be involved in academia within the pharmacy field," says LtCdr Moldenhauer.

Under Moldenhauer's guidance, the students on rotation select a topic of interest, conduct research, and organize a presentation. Sean Norton, a P4 pharmacy student, was on rotation for the month of September. Norton did his presentation on "Drug Safety and Handling in Pregnant Women." Norton's other responsibilities included: counseling patients on information concerning their medicine, checking and dispensing prescriptions, and following physicians on rounds to the

various clinics. Moldenhauer feels that this is one of the most valuable parts of the rotation. "Having a pharmacy student by their side is a great resource for the physicians; they can discuss which prescriptions would be better suited for each particular case. As for the students, they are the beneficiary of the expertise of the physician they are shadowing," says LtCdr Moldenhauer.

The Ambulatory Care Center's pharmacy is different from other pharmacies due to the high volume and fast paced environment. The pharmacy averages 23,000 to 24,000 prescriptions a month – ten times the amount of an average pharmacy. "We have an ambitious pharmacy team that works together to be exceptionally productive. The members are vivacious, and welcome the students that join us each month. We want to expose them to our diverse patient population and have them gain experience in our various clinics. We want to always encourage them and support them in their advancement into the Pharmacy profession," says LtCdr Moldenhauer. ■



Pictured Above: The Naval Ambulatory Care Center Pharmacy in Groton, CT. From left to right: Staff Pharmacist, Mr. Bob Branagan, R.Ph. [Captain, USPHA ret.]; School of Pharmacy student, Sean Norton; URI student Marissa Benvenuti; and Lieutenant Commander Edward Moldenhauer.