

March 2009 Liaison Report

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Report

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

APhA empowers its members to improve medication use and advance patient care through information, education and advocacy

Robert Pittman Honored with 2009 Kappa Epsilon Career Achievement Award
Congratulations to Robert Pittman, who was recently honored with the 2009 Kappa Epsilon Career Achievement Award!

Given to a member for outstanding professional achievement, Pittman is not only the first male Kappa Epsilon member to receive the award, but he is also the first federal pharmacist to receive the award.

Established in 1965, the award honors professional accomplishment of Kappa Epsilon members. Pittman currently serves as the U.S. Public Health Service's chief pharmacy officer and principal pharmacy consultant for the Indian Health Service.

A member of the organization's Sigma Chapter in Arizona and alumni of the University of

Arizona, Pittman accepted the award in a Kappa Epsilon ceremony at APhA headquarters. Congratulations!

Professional Practice:

Lack of compliance to osteoporosis guidelines management: What you and your patients need to know.

APhA has a CE series for Medication Therapy Management Services along with 80 more CE programs.

Public Policy:

Pharmacy Groups Announce Principles to Improve Patient Care, Access to Medications, Promote Technology to Enhance Health Care Delivery: Twelve pharmacy organizations collaborated to develop Pharmacy Principles of Healthcare Reform. The pharmacy organizations outlined three goals related to medication access and use that should be an integral part of any health reform debate:

1. Improve quality and safety of medication use
2. Assure patient access to needed medications and pharmacy services
3. Promote pharmacy and health information technology (HIT) interoperability

For more information, click the links above.

News:

President Obama signs **Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009** on February 17, 2009. There are several elements of the new law (Public Law 111-5) that are of interest to pharmacy, including funding for

- Health information technology;
- Comparative effectiveness programs;
- Telemedicine;
- Healthcare facility upgrades;
- Healthcare workforce shortages;
- Immunizations programs; and
- Health and wellness programs

To learn more, read APhA's summary.

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

No Report

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP): www.amcp.org

AMCP's mission is to empower its members to serve society by using sound medication management principles and strategies to improve health care for all.

- Professional Practice:

Gene Test Helps Set Accurate Blood Thinner Dose - People taking warfarin (Coumadin) soon may have a better way to get the tricky dose right, through gene testing.

Metoclopramide-Containing Drugs - FDA notified healthcare professionals that manufacturers of metoclopramide (Reglan) must add a boxed warning to their drug labels about the risk of its long-term or high-dose use. Chronic use of metoclopramide has been linked to tardive dyskinesia, which may include involuntary and repetitive movements of the body, even after the drugs are no longer taken. These symptoms are rarely reversible and there is no known treatment.

- Public Policy

Obama Hands States \$15B For Medicaid - President Barack Obama said he would begin distributing \$15 billion to the states within two days to help them with Medicaid payments to the poor.

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)

No Report

American Society of Health System-Pharmacists (ASHP) *www.ashp.org*

- Professional Practice

ASHP has published a new therapeutic position statement offering guidance on drug therapies and other strategies that pharmacists and other health professionals can apply in their crucial role in helping patients stop using tobacco products. Online at www.ajhp.org.

ASHP offers online pharmacy practice and public health-related resource centers designed to provide pharmacists with new and resources. Some examples of the resource centers are: Anticoagulation, Compounding, Evidence-Based Practice, Emergency Preparedness, influenza, etc... Please visit the following website for more information <http://www.ashp.org/practice-policy/>

- Public Policy

ASHP develops professional policies, in the form of policy positions and guidance documents (statements and guidelines), in order to establish best practices and provide guidance to ASHP members and other audiences impacted by health-system pharmacy practice. Please visit the following website for more information: <http://www.ashp.org/practice-policy/>

- News

The Health Workforce Information Center is now available at www.healthworkforceinfo.org. It offers access to data, research, policies, news, and information about programs, funding sources, and educational opportunities.

ASHP Foundation: <http://www.ashpfoundation.org/>

- News:

- The ASHP Research and Education Foundation is hosting a Webinar on March 18, 2009, at 2 P.M. ET to assist hospitals who are interested in applying for the 2009 Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety.

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is the national organization representing pharmacy education in the United States.

Professional Practice

AACP Selects “Science of Safety” Grant Investigators

AACP has selected a team of researchers to fulfill the proposal “A baseline evaluation of the integration of the “Science of Safety” into the curriculum of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy.” The \$90,000 dollar grant will go to primary investigator Dr. David Holdford at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy, and co-investigators Drs. Terri Warholak at The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and Donna West from The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. This project will provide an extensive literature review, key informant interviews, five case studies and a survey that will include all the accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy.

American Public Health Association (APHA)

Overview

The American Public Health Association is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world and has been working to improve Public Health since 1872

Professional Practice

Brand Name drugs not better for heart: Although many health experts believe brand name drugs are better than generic when it comes to treating cardiovascular disease recent review of pharmaceutical studies found no evidence that price drugs perform differently than generics.

APHA 2009 Proposed Polices

A: Health Disparities/International Health

B: Environmental Health

C: Access to Care

D: Public Health Science and Infrastructure

APHA Awards Program

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is now accepting awards for its 2009 awards. The nominations must be received by April 17, 2009. The information is posted on the APHA website.

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)

AMSUS, the Society of the Federal Health Agencies, which supports and represents the military and other federal health care professionals.

Still have questions in obtaining the Pharmacy CEUs offered at the AMSUS 114th Conference, please contact LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo at diem.ngo@fda.hhs.gov.

The 2009 Awards Program is mailed to all AMSUS member with the March issue of Military Medicine. The awards program will open this year 15 April. Only online submissions will be accepted (more information on pharmacy awards will be forthcoming)

To become a member go to www.amsus.org/membership starting rate is from \$55/year to a full time life membership of \$1000. The following are some of the benefits offered for members:

Commissioned Officer Association (COA)

Commissioned Officers Association - COA is dedicated to improving and protecting the public health of the United States by addressing unmet health needs and providing support for more than 7,000 members.

News

Branch of the Year Nominations Sought - Nominations for the Branch of the Year Award will be accepted from any COA member in good standing. The most likely sources of nominations will be individuals most knowledgeable of branch activities, e.g. COA Board liaisons, branch officers and agency managers. Please see the following website for additional details: <http://www.coausphs.org/>

Help fix the new GI Bill! The PHS Commissioned Corps and NOAA Commissioned Corps were left out of the expanded GI Bill that was approved by Congress and signed by President Bush earlier this year. This happened despite the fact that both PHS and NOAA officers have been included in all GI bill programs for over 60 years. See the following website to see how you can help:
<http://www.coausphs.org/lainitiatives.cfm>

Calendar of Events:

APhA

It's not too late! **The American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting & Exposition** will be held April 3–6, 2009, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

Meetings (Regional, and national meetings).

AMCP 21st Annual Meeting and Showcase, April 15-18, 2009, Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center, Orlando, FL

Registration for housing and the meeting is now open. For more information visit AMCP on their website at <http://www.amcp.org/conferences/2009/orlando/registration.cfm>

ASHP

2009 Summer Meeting – June 14-17, 2009 – Chicago, Illinois

ASHP Foundation: <http://www.ashpfoundation.org/>

Calendar of Events and Deadlines:

5/15/2009 – Extended deadline for **Federal Services Junior Investigator Research Grant** applications

4/1/2009 – Deadline for **Medication Safety Team Grant** applications

4/15/2009 – Applications available for **Pharmacy Resident Practice-Based Research Grant**

4/29/2009 – Deadline for **2009 Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety** applications

For more information Visit:

www.ashpfoundation.org/MainMenuCategories/ProgramNews/OpenPrograms.aspx

AACP Meetings (Regional, and national meetings):

2009 Annual Meeting

Leading the Revolution: July 18-22, 2009 in Boston, Mass

(<http://www.aacp.org/meetingsandevents/AMPresentations/Pages/2009AnnualMeeting.aspx>)

AMSUS

The next AMSUS 115th Annual Meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri from November 15-20, 2009, the theme will be: Lewis and Clark and Federal Healthcare: Teams Charting New Frontiers. All information regarding the 2009 Annual Meeting will be available in Spring 2009.

COA

Annual Meeting

The 2009 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held June 1-4, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. The 44th edition of this annual meeting will feature 3 1/2 days of general and tracked sessions. The theme for the 2009 Symposium is "Leading a Strong Public Health Workforce for a Healthy America." The conference will address a broad range of emerging trends, research break-throughs and critical issues in public health. Registration is available for the conference. Here is a link to the conference website: <http://www.phscofevents.org/>

Hotel Registration for the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta-through the above website or call 800-266-9432

Category day will be Tuesday, June 2nd

Surgeon General's run/walk will take place on Wednesday, June 3rd

Recruiting Information – Getting the Word Out on the Best Kept Secret this Nation Has to Offer: The USPHS will be held Thursday, June 4

Retirement Seminar- A 1-day seminar for officers retiring from the USPHS is expected to be held on Friday, June 5. Details to be announced.

Drug Topics: