

# July 2009 Liaison Report

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## **Report**

### **American Pharmacists Association** (APhA)

#### **Professional Practice:**

APhA provides an easy way to provide your patients with written information. They provide a wide variety of [Patient Education Brochures](#) for your use. Bookmark it today!

APhA, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation have developed [A Pharmacist's Guide to Pandemic Preparedness](#).

A [recent study](#) published in *Diabetes Care* shows that intensifying diabetes therapy improves A1C without adversely affecting health status, anxiety and depression. The study showed populations that benefited the most are elderly, lower income and minority patients with type 2 diabetes.

#### **Public Policy:**

APhA provides [comments](#) on the "Meaningful Use" of Electronic Health Records to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

Read APhA's [summary](#) of the Drug Enforcement Administration Interim Final Rule Implementing the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008.

**News:**

The FDA issued an alert on stolen insulin detemir that have reappeared and are being sold: read more [here](#).

**American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)**

No Report

**Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)**: Website: [www.amcp.org](http://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. Managed care pharmacy principles are based upon the use of scientific evidence to achieve healthy outcomes while making the best use of money spent on medications and their management.

**Walgreen CEO confirms plans to launch pilot program to treat type 2 diabetes.**

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (6/25, Japsen) reports that Walgreen Co. has "confirmed plans to launch a pilot program to treat the growing number of Americans with diabetes." Just this week, Walgreen CEO Greg Wasson announced that the company "will expand its offerings for chronic conditions like type 2 diabetes," but "would not disclose the locations." During his company's third-quarter earnings call, Wasson stated, "In coming quarters, we'll pilot a chronic-care management service in four markets focused initially on type 2 diabetes." He added, "The service will integrate capabilities across all of our platforms including pharmacies, retail clinics, call centers, and mail service to enable patients to better control their condition." The Tribune notes that "diabetes is becoming one of the nation's top healthcare concerns and is regularly mentioned by" the President and "Congress as a key area for improvement if medical costs are going to be wrestled under control."

**FDA approves generic version of Plan B.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/25, Kalish) reports that on Wednesday, the FDA "approved a generic version of the controversial Plan B [levonorgestrel] morning-after contraceptive." The generic version of the contraceptive "will become available for women 18 and older without a prescription on Aug. 24, the date the marketing exclusivity for nonprescription use held by Duramed Pharmaceuticals Inc., subsidiary of Barr Pharma, maker of the original Plan B pill, ends." The "approval follows an earlier decision to allow women under 17 years old to use an over-the-counter brand-name version of the Plan B contraceptive. That move, ordered by a federal judge in March, rolled back the 18-year-old age imposed by the Bush administration."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/25, Larkin) notes that the "medicine consists of two tablets of levonorgestrel taken 12 hours apart." The FDA "said April 22 that it wouldn't stand in the way of a judge's order to allow over-the-counter sales to 17-year-old women." Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. spokeswoman Denise Bradley also "said Teva must formally apply with the agency to lower the age by one year, and the company continues to 'work closely' with the FDA as it reviews the proposed change." The [AP](#) (6/25) and [MedPage Today](#) (6/24, Peck) also report on the story.

• **Public Policy (pending laws, regulations that affect pharmacy practice)**

**House committee looks at high cost of drugs for federal health plans.**

Dow Jones Newswires (6/25, Peterson) reports, "Members of a US House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee sharply questioned in a Wednesday hearing why prescription drugs cost disproportionately more under the federal employee healthcare plan." Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) vowed to introduce legislation that would put the managers under tighter federal regulation, calling it "a scam of major proportions," particularly at a time "when we're trying to find billions of dollars to fund healthcare reform." Currently, prescription drugs "account for nearly 30 percent of costs for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program" compared to "no more than 20 percent of total costs" for normal plans.

• **News**

**Submit your nominations now for AMCP and FMCP awards.**

Submit your nominations for AMCP's Individual Contribution Award and Grassroots Advocacy Award and FMCP's Steven G. Avey Award. This is your opportunity to nominate your peers or yourself for outstanding contributions to the Academy. These prestigious awards will recognize individuals for their accomplishments, and their commitment and dedication to the profession of managed care pharmacy. Nominations are due by July 31, 2009, for the Steven G. Avey Award, and by August 14, 2009, for the Individual Contribution and Grassroots Advocacy awards.

**American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)**

FDA Advisers make new recommendations on limiting Acetaminophen dosage.

Pharmacists included in Senate HELP Committee Health Care Reform Bill

**American Society of Health System-Pharmacists (ASHP) [www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org)**

**Professional Practice**

1) Helping pharmacists who conduct clinical research bring science to practice.

Our section contains content for pharmacists with specialty practice interests who may also conduct clinical research in a number of recognized and emerging specialty areas of pharmacy practice. Here you'll connect with other specialists who share your professional interests and goals.

**Public Policy**

1) ASHP's professional policies contain varying levels of detail. Policy positions are short pronouncements on one aspect of practice. Statements express basic philosophy, and guidelines (including what were formerly called "technical assistance bulletins") offer programmatic advice. Therapeutic position statements are concise responses to specific therapeutic issues, and therapeutic guidelines are thorough, evidence-based recommendations on drug use.

Go to:

<http://www.ashp.org/Import/PRACTICEANDPOLICY/PolicyPositionsGuidelinesBestPractices/BrowsebyDocumentType/ASHPStatements.aspx>

## News

1) Lynnae M. Mahaney, M.B.A., FASHP, was installed this week as president of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) during the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Society's House of Delegates in Rosemont, Ill.

2) During a speech to the American Medical Association's (AMA) House of Delegates in Chicago today, President Barack Obama pointed to pharmacists' participation on "multidisciplinary rounds" as an "island of excellence" that should become the "standard of care in our health care system." ASHP has worked to educate the Obama administration on the important role that pharmacists play in medication-related patient care services. The Society continues to reach out to lawmakers as they develop health care reform proposals.

3) ASHP is on Facebook, join the online meetings to discuss meeting, etc.

## **ASHP Foundation**

8/7/2009 – Deadline for **Pharmacy Leadership Academy** applications

9/15/2009 – Deadline for **Antithrombotic Pharmacotherapy Traineeship** Session II applications

10/31/2009 – Deadline for **Pharmacy Resident Practice-Based Research Grant** applications

Events:

9/20/2009 – **2009 Walter Jones Golf Classic**

## **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.

The mission of the Association is to both represent and be an advocate for all segments of the academic community in the profession of pharmacy.

**No Report this month**

## **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

- FDA to ease access to Plan B contraception-A federal court issued an order in late March directing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to permit the Plan B emergency contraceptive drug manufacturer to make the medication available without a prescription.
- Electronic prescriptions move health care into digital future: Advocates say e-prescribing is a key advance toward health care's digital future because of its potential to reduce medical errors, cut drug cost and save doctors and patients time and money.
- Senate passes bill increasing FDA power over tobacco products

## News

- Global public health mobilizes to confront H1N1 flu outbreak
- National Public Health Week marked nationwide
- Food safety reforms moves closer to become reality: Legislation now under consideration
- CDC finds rocket fuel chemical in powdered baby formula
- APHA acts on smoking, children's health
- Perspectives of the APHA President
  - The health of the world's children : An International Responsibility
- Celine Cousteau to keynote APHA Annual Meeting
- HRSA playing critical role in national health reform dialogue
- APHA releases principles for health reform in the United States
- Article on public health brings award to The Nation's Health
- Winners named in APHA get Ready Scholarship competition
- APHA Video: Healthiest nation in one generation a possibility
- New features make Public Health Career Mart better for job seekers
- School a prime place for smoking education
- Poorer children more likely to face bullying
- President's 2010 budget plan lays groundwork for health reform
- New Federal campaign to refocus attention on HIV crisis
- Many have unknown insurance gaps
- TB infections among HIV patients higher than expected, reports WHO
- Sites in seven states added to superfund
- New Web site illuminates public health career paths for students
- Occupational health, hazards focus on internship program
- Study finds unexpected bacterial diversity on human skin
- Study says colorectal cancer increasing in young adults
- Heart-healthy, reduced-calorie diet promote long term weight loss
- Three in every 1,000 U.S. Kids diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome
- Almost one in five 4 year olds is obese
- Enforcing tobacco laws raves down smoking
- Circumcision protects against HPV, Herpes
- Housing for Homeless lowers public cost
- Bicycle, ATV-related deaths on the rise
- Lead exposure hurts women's cognition

## **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.

The Pharmacy CEUs offered at the AMSUS 114<sup>th</sup> Conference was mailed out end of May, if you have not received your CE please contact LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo at [diem.ngo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:diem.ngo@fda.hhs.gov). If you would like to request for your CE to be sent electronically for the renewal of your licensure, please contact Ed.Stein@ihs.gov

Nomination for the 2009 AMSUS Awards are now closed and the winners will be announced at the AMSUS Dinner and Awards Ceremony during the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The Pharmacy Awards include:

- The 2009 AMSUS Award for Excellence in Clinical Pharmacy Practice and Andrew Craigie Award
- To become a member go to [www.amsus.org/membership](http://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:
  - Members receive *Military Medicine* the Association's official journal, each month.
  - Members receive the quarterly *AMSUS Newsletter*.
  - Members may attend the AMSUS Annual Meeting at substantially reduced rates.
  - Members may participate in the Annual Awards Program, with awards presented by the Surgeons General of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Public Health Service, and the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Annual Meeting.
  - Members are eligible to join one of the AMSUS Chapters.
  - The Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. WorldPoints MasterCard Credit Card: Earn points and get the rewards.
  - AMSUS Online Resource Library Upgraded.  
(*Can find out more details about benefits under membership*)

## **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.

**No Report this month**

## **Calendar of Events:**

### **APhA**

#### **Meetings:**

Mark your calendar NOW for the 2010 APhA Annual Meeting to be held March 12-15, 2010 in Washington, DC.

The annual Joint Forces Pharmacy Seminar (JFPS) event that brings the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard pharmacy community together is scheduled for October 26-29, 2009 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada

### **AMCP**

AMCP's 2009 Educational Conference, October 7-9, 2009, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center San Antonio, Texas

### **ASCP**

ASCP's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Midwest Regional Conference for Consultant Pharmacist

July 17, 2009, Indianapolis, IN

Clinical Update for the Geriatric Pharmacist Workshop

July 17, 2009, Indianapolis, IN and November 17, 2009 Anaheim CA

ASCP's 16th Annual MD-ASCP Mid-Atlantic Conference  
Rocky Gap Lodge & Golf Resort  
August 6-9, 2009

Senior Care Pharmacy '09  
November 18-22, 2009  
Anaheim Convention Center  
Anaheim, California

### **ASHP**

2009 Leadership Conference  
The Wesin O'Hare ,Chicago, IL  
October 19-20, 2009

2009 Midyear Meeting  
Venetian Resort and the Sands Expo Center, Las Vegas, Nevada  
December 6-10, 2009

**AACP Meetings (Regional, and national meetings):**

The world's pharmacy educators will convene at the 2009 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars in Boston (July 18 - July 22) eager to shape the future of global healthcare.

**ACCP**

2009 Annual Meeting  
Location: Anaheim, California  
Dates: Sunday, October 18-Wednesday, October 21

**AMSUS**

The next AMSUS 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Army and held in St. Louis, Missouri from November 15-20, 2009, the theme will be: Lewis and Clark and Federal Healthcare: Teams Charting New Frontiers.  
Registration will open on July 13, 2009

**Drug Topics:**

There are now 1,500 Certified Geriatric Pharmacists

National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOSH) has decided to initiate a long-range study on violence against pharmacists.

Wolters Kluwer Health (WKU), reports that prescription abandonment increased 34% since 2006.

Ella P. Stewart museum opens in Toledo, OH. Mrs. Stewart is recognized as the first nation's black female pharmacist.