Announcements

**ASHP Board of Directors Announces 2013 Awards**

The Board of Directors of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) will acknowledge the contributions of a diverse group of health care practitioners with the Society’s 2013 recognition awards. The following awards will be given during ceremonies at ASHP’s national continuing education meetings:

**Award of Excellence (ASHP Summer Meeting, June 2013)** The ASHP Award of Excellence is given to an individual or group of individuals in recognition of a specific recent contribution or achievement that has advanced the ability of hospital and health-system pharmacists in the United States to serve the needs of patients.

Recipient:


**CEO's Award for Courageous Service (ASHP Summer Meeting, June 2013)** The ASHP Chief Executive Officer’s Award for Courageous Service recognizes individuals or groups of individuals in health-system pharmacy who go beyond the call or assignment of duty to serve patients or assist pharmacists in serving patients, such as under emergency conditions or in times of natural disaster or other cataclysmic events. The award is for specific incidents of inspiring, unselfish service under adverse conditions.

Recipients:

David W. Fuhs, PharmD, MS, FASHP, Senior Medical Science Liaison, GlaxoSmithKline, Woodbury, Minn. Bellevue Hospital Center Department of Pharmacy, New York, New York. Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center Department of Pharmacy, Brooklyn, N.Y. NYU Langone Medical Center Department of Pharmacy, New York, New York New York Presbyterian Hospital Department of Pharmacy, New York, New York U.S. Public Health Service Pharmacists and Brookdale Hospital Department of Pharmacy, Brooklyn, N.Y. AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center Department of Pharmacy, Atlantic City, N.J.

**Honorary Membership (ASHP Summer Meeting, June 2013)** Honorary membership in ASHP is bestowed upon individuals who are or have been especially interested in or have made outstanding contributions to pharmacy practice in health systems.

Recipient:
Harold N. Godwin, MS, FASHP, FAPhA, Professor and Associate Dean, University of Kansas, Overland Park. Award for Distinguished Leadership in Health-System Pharmacy Practice (48th Midyear Clinical Meeting, December 2013) The Award for Distinguished Leadership in Health-System Pharmacy Practice recognizes the contributions of practitioners who have achieved excellence in health-system pharmacy practice leadership.

Recipient:

James G. Stevenson, PharmD, FASHP, Director of Pharmacy Services, University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers, Ann Arbor. Board of Directors Award of Honor (48th Midyear Clinical Meeting, December 2013) The ASHP Board of Directors Award of Honor is given to individuals outside the pharmacy discipline who have made significant contributions to the health field.

Recipient:


Recipient:

Dr. Eduardo Osvaldo Savio Quevedo, Assistant Professor, Universidad do la Republica Uruguay, Montevideo.

About ASHP
ASHP is a 35,000-member national professional association that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, long-term care facilities, home care, and other components of health care systems. ASHP is the only national organization of hospital and health-system pharmacists and has a long history of improving medication use and enhancing

Pharmacy News

- Levotyroxine sodium recalled, may be unavailable until 2014
- First U.S. State Biosimilars Bill Becomes Law
NYSCHP News

2013 Cardiology Practice Based Program
May 31st-June 1 St. John Fisher College 3690 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14618

Providing services in the ambulatory care setting has been an important area of growth for the practice of pharmacy, especially in the field of Cardiology. The impact of pharmacists in various clinical settings is well documented and may include benefits such as improved therapeutic outcomes, increased patient satisfaction, and cost savings to the health care system. Specifically, the incorporation of a clinical pharmacist into a multidisciplinary cardiology team of physicians and nurses can provide benefits such as improved management of supportive care, enhanced education of patients receiving complicated treatment.

22.5 Contact Hours

Section I: Acute Coronary Syndromes Section II: Chronic Heart Failure Section III: Acute Decompensated Heart Failure Section IV: Atrial Fibrillation Section V: Dyslipidemia Section VI: Hypertension

Registration is now open at www.nyschp.org.

Touro College of Pharmacy
Touro College of Pharmacy focuses on preparing students to address the issues of health disparities and to serve diverse populations. Whether it is local or international service, faculty and students are continuously involved in public health services.

Touro College of Pharmacy Travels to India

Recently, faculty members and Touro College of Pharmacy students ventured to India to help run health camps in poor urban communities. The trip was lead and supervised by Dr. Aubrey Jacobson, M.D., MPH, professor and director of public health education, practice and research, Ronnie Moore, Pharm.D., senior director of practice experience, and Dipan Ray, Ph.D., director of practice experience. The students participating were Jillian Brown, Jessica Cate, Steven Elrod,
Glenn Morataya, Ravi Shah, and Danny Tea.

The group collaborated with the Urban Health Resource Center (UHRC), a non-profit organization in New Delhi that works to improve health of residents living in slums and settlements. They spent four weeks in the underserved neighborhoods of New Delhi and Agra to screen approximately 350 residents for hypertension, diabetes, and pulmonary impairment. Residents were counseled on how to improve their health, prevent diseases, and use their medications properly. Residents that needed further treatment were referred to medical services. The students created a database consisting of proper medications for the UHRC to help residents acquire appropriate medications.

The students were dedicated during their trip, working 10 to 14 hours each day and often going without lunch and becoming ill themselves due to the physically draining conditions, in addition to the poor sanitation and air pollution. The UHRC staff helped prepare the group by teaching them Hindi and helping them understand cultural differences. Still, given the conditions of little privacy, coupled with language barriers, it was a challenge to interview patients, perform blood pressure readings, and counsel. Translators assisted, and reading body language was an asset.

Their trip to India was rewarding in many ways. After the trip, the group expressed having some of the best experiences of their lives and realizing the extent of the opportunity for pharmacists to broaden their services in public health on an international level. They expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the UHRC and will integrate their organization skills and other skills learned, into the college of pharmacy’s ongoing public health efforts in the Harlem community. For more information regarding this outreach trip, please visit the following link for the press release: [http://legacy.touro.edu/media/pr/releases/PR-India.pdf](http://legacy.touro.edu/media/pr/releases/PR-India.pdf)

Touro College of Pharmacy Participates in National Kick Butts Day

On a local level, Touro College of Pharmacy recently participated in a public health service. Touro College of Pharmacy, Brooklyn Smoke-free Partnership, and the Chinese-American Planning Council collaborated to produce a video that highlights the adverse effects of smoking that was released on March 20, 2013. Participating in the video was Mary Choy, Pharm.D. CGP, assistant professor at Touro College of Pharmacy and President-Elect of the New York City Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NYCSHP), and the students were Basirat Adeyemi, Marisol Ibarra, William Loi, Glenn Morataya, and Kingsley Ohikuare. National Kick Butts Day is sponsored by the United Health Foundation and it is a national day of activism where youth are empowered to speak up and take control against tobacco. In the video, Touro students represent the Health Hazards Team and youth from P.S. 209 represent the Butt Kickers Team. Members of the Health Hazards Team include “tooth decay,” “gum disease,” “heart attack,” “black lung,” and “infection.” The video shows the two teams playing kickball and the Butt Kickers Team ultimately defeating, or figuratively “butt kicking” the Health Hazards Team. The team members are interviewed and “heart attack” from the Health Hazards Team shared, “My heart felt like it was going to explode. I heard that after 15 years of smoking, my risk of heart disease is the same as non-smokers. Maybe it’s time to quit.” As each team member was interviewed, a message about the detrimental effects of smoking was depicted. The purpose of the skit was to bring awareness on the problem of tobacco use and explain that youth exposed to
smoking advertisements, especially those in bodegas and stores, are more likely to begin smoking earlier.

Please see link for the video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LihM7Zul7yg&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LihM7Zul7yg&feature=youtu.be) Please see the newsletter link from the Brooklyn Smoke-Free Partnership on additional coverage: [http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs135/1108302654603/archive/1112964054267.htm](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs135/1108302654603/archive/1112964054267.htm)

Touro Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP)

In the Fall of 2011, Mary Choy, Pharm.D. CGP, assistant professor at Touro College of Pharmacy and President-Elect of the New York City Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NYCSHP), and Tammy Pham, Pharm.D. Candidate 2013, collaborated and founded the Touro Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP). The student society adopted the mission and objectives of our state society and represents student pharmacists who wish to pursue a career in health-systems. The student society provides information on the various careers in pharmacy and the criteria needed for pharmacy practice in health-systems. In our first year, the student society gained approximately 100 members through the membership drive. Other activities in the first year included developing a constitution and bylaws, coordinating three guest speaker events, and managing a residency and fellowship forum. The student society also won a $500 grant from ASHP to help strengthen the society in an effort to achieve full recognition from ASHP. The students presented a school poster at the ASHP Pharmacy Student Society Showcase highlighting Touro SSHP activities. Touro SSHP has also been active on a local level and has partnered with NYCSHP on several projects. Recent projects include poster presentations at ASHP Midyear on “Student Perceptions of a Roundtable Networking Event that Involved Students from Three Schools of Pharmacy in NYC” and “Development of Social Media and Website in a City Chapter of a State Pharmacy Organization.” This year, the student society has continued the momentum with increasing attendance at meetings, holding four guest speaker events with pharmacy leaders in the community, managing a t-shirt fundraising drive, and completing a professional development project. Touro SSHP is on our way to achieving ASHP recognition and will be submitting our application in June this year.

ASHP News

**FDA Wants Pharmacies to Remove Products Received From Shamrock Medical**

Cheryl A. Thompson

BETHTESDA, MD 12 April 2013 - Without mentioning the word recall, FDA on Thursday posted a notice advising pharmacies and other customers of Shamrock Medical Solutions Group LLC to take action to ensure drug products from that company are not administered to patients.

The agency said these products "may be mislabeled."

Shamrock Medical describes itself as an FDA-registered drug repackager that is licensed in more than 20 states.
Compounding Pharmacy Industry Has Outgrown Its Regulatory System, ASHP and FDA Say
[May 1, 2013, AJHP News]
Cheryl A. Thompson

BETHELDA, MD 11 April 2013—In the half year since a compounding pharmacy in Massachusetts announced a recall of all its products "due to the potential risk of contamination," two other pharmacies declared recalls "due to lack of sterility assurance."

And at least two additional compounding pharmacies have recalled their maybe-not-so-sterile products after FDA personnel inspected the facilities.

The human toll is real.

FDA, Green Valley Drugs Announce Voluntary Nationwide Recall of All Sterile Products
4/11/2013 The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that Green Valley Drugs has issued a voluntary recall of all sterile products compounded, repackaged, and distributed at its facility in Henderson, NV.

According to the FDA website, the recall is being issued by the company after observations of clean room personnel and certain aseptic techniques.

In light of the recall, ASHP members should take the following steps:

Still Chance to Stop Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae, CDC Says
4/9/2013 The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) dedicated its Bethesda headquarters today as the Joseph A. Oddis Building. In a ceremony held on the plaza in front of the building entrance, at 7272 Wisconsin Avenue, nearly 200 people gathered to hear remarks and honor the man known as the father of ASHP. The dedication recognized the contributions of Joseph A. Oddis, Sc.D., a former chief executive officer (1960 – 1997) of the professional society that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals, health systems, and clinics.
Levothyroxine sodium recalled, may be unavailable until 2014
*Endocrine Today* (04/01/13)
Pfizer has expanded its recall of Levoxyl (levothyroxine sodium), which may result in the drug being unavailable until 2014. The recall was initially reported during the last week of March when Pfizer subsidiary King Pharmaceuticals sent a letter to healthcare providers and pharmacists letting them know that shipping had been halted for all strengths of Levoxyl on Feb. 13, and that the backorder situation was being discussed with the FDA. Complaints from pharmacists and patients of an "uncharacteristic odor" following the opening of some bottles and a discussion with the FDA, led to the decision to voluntarily recall all strengths of the drug on the retail level. The odor was linked to the oxygen-absorbing canister located in the 100-count and 1,00-count bottles, and "is not likely to cause any adverse health consequences," Pfizer noted. Pharmacists and other healthcare providers are asked to take the shortage into account in their practice patterns and make plans for managing those patients currently taking the drug.

**return to headlines**

First U.S. State Biosimilars Bill Becomes Law
*PharmaTimes* (03/25/13) Taylor, Lynne
Virginia is the first U.S. state to pass legislation governing the substitution of biosimilar drugs for prescribed biologics, and the generics industry has assailed the new statute for overriding FDA guidance. The law "permits pharmacists to dispense a biosimilar that has been licensed by the U.S. [FDA] as interchangeable with a prescribed biological product unless the prescriber indicates such substitution is not authorized or the patient insists on dispensing the prescribed biological product." It also "requires any pharmacist who dispenses an interchangeable biosimilar to inform the patient prior to dispensing the biosimilar and record the brand name or the product name and name of the manufacturer of the biosimilar on the record of dispensing and the prescription label."

**return to headlines**

Patient Genetics the Basis for Mount Sinai Prescription Support Tool
*Fierce HealthIT* (04/08/13) Bowman, Dan
Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York has created a system that promises to help physicians write prescriptions that are more tailored to the needs of their patients. The system, which is being tested through Mount Sinai's Clinical Implementation of Personalized Medicine through Electronic health Records and Genomics (CLIPMERGE) program, requires patients to submit saliva samples so that their genetic information can be entered in a database. This information is then used to help predict how certain drugs will affect each patient. Healthcare providers will automatically receive alerts from the system in the event that a patient is prescribed a drug which has a higher risk of side effects.

**return to headlines**

FDA Approves Novartis Antibacterial Treatment for Cystic Fibrosis
*Drug Store News* (03/25/13) DeArment, Alaric
The FDA has approved a treatment for managing a type of bacterial infection in patients with cystic fibrosis. Novartis announced the approval of tobramycin inhalation powder (Obi Podhaler) for managing cystic fibrosis patients with Pseudomonas aeruginosa, or Pa bacteria, in the lungs. The product is the only FDA-approved dry-powder inhaled antibacterial for Pa in the United States. The safety and effectiveness of tobramycin inhalation powder was evaluated in a clinical study that assigned 95 pediatric and adult patients to receive the drug or a placebo. Results showed that patients treated with tobramycin achieved a 12.5 percent increase in forced
expiratory volume in one second (FEV1) compared to 0.09 percent in patients treated with
placebo. Common adverse events reported in the study included cough, including a cough that
produces phlegm or mucus; hemoptysis; lung disorder; shortness of breath; fever; mouth and
throat pain; dysphonia; and headache.

Clinical Specialties is voluntarily recalling all lots of sterile products repackaged and distributed
by the pharmacy due to lack of sterility assurance. This action follows the pharmacy's initial
recall of bevacizumab (Avastin) after five patients were diagnosed with endophthalmitis
infections associated with intravitreal injection of the product. The updated recall now also
includes all sterile products distributed nationwide by Clinical Specialties between October 19,

Duloxetine May Ease Neuropathy From Chemo
MedPage Today (04/02/13) Petrochko, Cole
A phase III trial recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association has
found that the depression and anxiety drug duloxetine is effective at treating peripheral
neuropathy caused by chemotherapy. The study found that peripheral neuropathy patients who
took duloxetine for five weeks experienced significantly larger decreases in pain as measured by
the Brief Pain Inventory Short Form than did those in the placebo group. In addition, the study
found that 59 percent of duloxetine patients experienced some degree of pain reduction,
compared with 38 percent of patients given a placebo. However, patients who were given
duloxetine and then given a placebo had a higher drop out rate than patients who took the
placebo before taking duloxetine.

Neshoba General Announces New Outpatient IV Infusion Unit
Neshoba Democrat (MS) (03/20/2013)
Neshoba County General Hospital and Nursing Home has announced the opening of the
Outpatient IV Infusion Unit. The infusion unit will feature registered nurses and trained
pharmacists [with] specialized training in IV infusion therapies. The nurses are trained to provide
a wide range of infusion therapy services for IV antibiotics and chronic disease.

Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital have published a study about the adverse events
associated with statins. The study examined the medical records of nearly 108,000 patients
treated with statins over an eight-year period, and found that approximately 17 percent stopped
taking the drugs because of various adverse events. However, more than half of these patients
were eventually able to start taking statins once again and achieve good results, indicating that
some adverse events associated with statins go away in time. Researchers said that patients who
experience adverse events while on statins should consider switching to a different drug or taking
a lower dose.

Bill Would Allow Prescription, Distribution of Naloxone
Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear is expected to sign into law a bill that would make it easier to distribute a drug used to counteract overdoses in opiate users. Under the bill, which will likely be signed into law in July, doctors and pharmacists will be able to distribute nasal naloxene so that a third party can administer the drug to people overdosing on street drugs like heroin or opiate prescription medications. The bill an attempt to address the problem of opiate overdoses in Kentucky. It remains to be seen how a sufficient amount of nasal naloxene will be distributed to pharmacies so that it can be given to those who need it.

The Physician-Patient Alliance for Health & Safety (PPAHS) is soliciting participation in what is believed to be the first countrywide survey on patient-controlled analgesia practices. "Data from the survey should provide valuable information that will help determine current practices and indicate practices that may be adopted to improve patient safety and health outcomes," said PPAHS executive director Michael Wong. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers are encouraged to participate in the research, which is being conducted in cooperation with the nonprofit A Promise to Amanda Foundation. The survey can be accessed at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PCAhospitalsurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PCAhospitalsurvey).

Cincinnati.com (OH) (04/02/13) DeMio, Terry

Physician-Patient Alliance for Health & Safety Invites Participation in the First National Survey of Patient-Controlled Analgesia Practices

Albany Times Union (NY) (03/20/13)

The Physician-Patient Alliance for Health & Safety (PPAHS) is soliciting participation in what is believed to be the first countrywide survey on patient-controlled analgesia practices. "Data from the survey should provide valuable information that will help determine current practices and indicate practices that may be adopted to improve patient safety and health outcomes," said PPAHS executive director Michael Wong. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers are encouraged to participate in the research, which is being conducted in cooperation with the nonprofit A Promise to Amanda Foundation. The survey can be accessed at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PCAhospitalsurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PCAhospitalsurvey).