**Focus on Antibiotic Stewardship – Part 4 - Antibiotic Resistance**

Antibiotic resistance can travel the globe. Often called superbugs, some bacteria are already resistant to most or all known antibiotics. One example is CRE, a family of germs that is resistant to our most powerful drugs of last-resort. CRE is sometimes called “nightmare bacteria” because they are so difficult to treat. Although CRE was originally found in only one state in the United States, it has now spread to other states.

The way we use antibiotics today or in one patient, directly impacts how effective antibiotics will be tomorrow or in another patient. This resistance is not just a problem for the infected person. Some resistant bacteria have the potential to spread their resistance to others-promoting antibiotic-resistant infections. As it may be many years before new antibiotics are available to treat some resistant infections, we need to improve the use of antibiotics that are currently available.

As healthcare professionals, we can spread the message that antibiotic resistance is a global problem. We can help to implement infection-control measures to reduce the spread of multidrug-resistant strains and reinforce national policies on prudent antibiotic use. We can also adhere to World Health Organization’s strong recommendations in 4 main areas:

- surveillance for antimicrobial resistance
- rational antibiotic use, including the education of healthcare workers in the appropriate use of antibiotics
- introduction or enforcement of legislation related to stopping the sale of antibiotics without a prescription
- strict adherence to infection prevention and control measures, including safe handwashing measures.

In summary:

Antibiotic resistance is one of the world’s most pressing public health threats. **All healthcare team members must work together to use effective strategies to improve antibiotic use** - ultimately improving medical care and saving lives.

Reference: [www.cdc.gov/getsmart](http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart)

_Dr. Deborah Milito_ is chair of the ASCP Antibiotic Think Tank and presented at the ASCP Antimicrobial Stewardship webinar in Dallas. She is Chief Antimicrobial Stewardship Officer at Diamond Pharmacy Services. She is PA ASCP Western Director.

*PA ASCP Antibiotic Stewardship Initiative*

**Tuesday Feb. 28**

**Location:** What If of Hershey – 845 East Chocolate Ave., Hershey, PA 17033

**6:00 - 7:00** Dinner / Program sponsored by Collegium Pharmaceutical

**7:00 – 8:00** Continuing Education Program

ACPE Activity Title: **Antibiotic Stewardship in Long Term Care**

Universal Activity Number (UAN): 0798-9999-16-129-L01-P

CE Provider: PharmCon, Inc

CE Speaker: Deborah Milito, PharmD, CGP, Chair ASCP Antibiotic Think Tank

Dinner Sponsor: Collegium Pharmaceutical

RSVP Online: [www.pharmethodportal.com/collegium/register](http://www.pharmethodportal.com/collegium/register)  Program ID 11726

**Upcoming Programs:** Watch for updates as other program dates/locations are pending for Northeast and Northwest regions. (Programs were held in western region 9/2016 and southeastern region in 10/2016.)
Upcoming ASCP Events in 2017

ASCP 2017 Forum
May 3-4, 2017
Arlington, VA

ASCP Mid Atlantic Meeting
August 2017
information to follow

ASCP 2017 Annual Meeting & Exhibition
November 2 – 5, 2017
Kissimmee Florida

The Pennsylvania Chapter invites members to participate in organization planning and events.
We thank each of you for your membership to the Pennsylvania ASCP Chapter and invite members to get involved in the activities and plans for this year. Let us know your needs and please consider increasing your involvement. At the state chapter meeting in Dallas in November, several members signed up for committees to move forward addressing these needs. Additional members are needed and you are invited to consider joining these committees:

- Student Engagement
- Membership/Nominations
- Communication
- Legislation
- Inter-professional Outreach
- Education and Planning

Members are invited to get involved in planning events for our chapter and attending events at the pharmacy schools, regional dinners, CE events and ASCP regional and national events

- Learn more about chapter events by accessing the website www.ascp.com
  Click on membership, then state chapters to locate PA chapter (Region 2). Officers are listed along with links to membership, events past minutes and newsletters.

2016-2017 PA ASCP Chapter Officers

- Immediate Past President – Scott Mark  scottmark16@gmail.com
- President – Laura Finn  laurafinncgp@gmail.com
- Treasurer – Lou Czechowski  rxlou@rcn.com
- Secretary – Christine O’Neil  oneilc@duq.edu
- Northeast Regional Director – William Arcurie  bill.arcurie@gmail.com
- Western Regional Director – Deborah Milito  dmilito@diamondpharmacy.com
- Central Regional Director – Jan Druschel  jdruschel@diamondpharmacy.com
- Southeast Regional Director – open  (Contact Laura if you are interested in this position.)

Please contact any officer if you are interested in getting more involved.
Duquesne University Student Chapter of ASCP takes pride in our highly active role in community service and outreach focused on the geriatric population this academic year. Some highlights thus far consist of:

- Provided an information session for the underprivileged community in downtown Pittsburgh that discussed fall risk education and prevention for the elderly.
- Organized a bake sale and sold T-shirts to raise proceeds for the Alzheimer’s Association
- Volunteered at a local Walk to End Alzheimer’s and advocated for Alzheimer’s research and funding
- Attended a Pennsylvania ASCP Chapter meeting which gave an opportunity to network and listen to an informative session on antibiotic stewardship
- Invited guest speakers to monthly meetings to discuss topics ranging from geriatric residency opportunities to anticoagulation treatment options in the elderly
- Decorated holiday mugs for the residents of The Haven nursing home, played BINGO, and passed out Christmas themed prizes to the residents.

For more information on the Duquesne University Chapter of ASCP please contact chapter president Rachel Danko at dankor@duq.edu

University of Pittsburgh’s newly established chapter of ASCP is off to a great start. Our leadership team is extremely excited to bring this organization and its many benefits to the student pharmacists of our school. With the help of partners Kristel Chatellier and Amanda Schwenk as well as faculty mentor, Dr. Ruby, we were able to host our first meeting this January as an official organization!

- We had a lot of interest and look forward to reaching as many students as possible.
- Planning our general body meetings and speakers for the semester, looking for speakers if anyone is interested
- Will be visiting a nursing home to discuss the importance of medications and adherence, then playing bingo with the residents
- Hoping to collaborate with other pharmacy schools and national ASCP
- Interested in hearing any tips or ideas for our chapter

As our organization kicks off, it is crucial that we have support from all of you! We can’t wait to meet and network with geriatric pharmacists and to share our passion for pharmacy with the national organization. Thanks. We look forward to hearing from you. Founding President: Kara Ioanno

For more information on the Pitt chapter of ASCP, please contact president – Kara Ioannou at kai25@pitt.edu or pittascp@gmail.com or faculty advisor, Dr. Christine Ruby at cms101@pitt.edu
The Temple University Chapter of ASCP continues to be very active in their community.

- The Chapter has a strong relationship with several senior centers and a senior living complex. Wellness events are planned monthly with senior center members including a mini-health fair with nursing and pharmacy student participants.
- The signature event is the “Vial of Life” program which provides medical information to first responders. This is well received in the community and provides great opportunity for pharmacy students to gather medication histories and screen for drug interactions.
- Temple’s chapter joins PCP’s chapter in a joint ASCP team in the Annual Philadelphia area Walk to End Alzheimer’s and looks forward to increased collaboration between the student ASCP chapters.

For more information on the Temple University Chapter of ASCP please contact chapter president Eddie Feller at tud13091@temple.edu  Chapter Advisor is Leigh Godfrey Weber.

The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy Student Chapter of ASCP introduced several new events this fall.

- Students visited local senior center, Star Harbor to distribute pill bottle magnifiers, play BINGO and encourage medication related conversation through med adherence crafts. Students helped members decorate pill bottles with medication reminders providing an opportunity to openly speak about their medication concerns while giving the students a chance to put their knowledge into action.
- To increase awareness of Alzheimer’s Disease, the film ‘Still Alice’ was viewed and a caramel apple and cider fundraiser was held to raise funds for Alzheimer’s advocacy during the Walk to End Alzheimer’s.
- The First Annual "Geriatrics Day" on September 21st included an information/activity booth on campus to encourage inter-professional education of students/faculty about the geriatric population and fall prevention. Candy prizes supplemented Q & A about fall prevention and cognitive impairment with educational brochures being distributed. Geriatrics day was a real success and it is hopeful that this will become an annual tradition.
- P-4 student ASCP member, Amisha Patel participated in the national ASCP meeting in Texas as a Student Ambassador and presented a poster on the PCP chapter’s activities.
- The spring semester brings new service events including Home Cook Heroes Program at the Gift of Life Family House, Senior Center Prom/Fashion Show and a game night. In March, students visit Star Harbor and learning from Temple University, the PCP ASCP chapter is adding the Vial of Life to this spring project.

For more information on the PCP chapter of ASCP, please contact president – Dorothy Krzyworzeka at dkrzyworzeka@mail.usciences.edu or faculty advisor, Laura Finn, BCGP at l.finn@usciences.edu

Calling ALL Consultant Pharmacists – Consider reaching out to your local pharmacy school or Alma Mater to get involved with student activities. Speaker opportunities bring consulting pharmacy to life for the pharmacy students.

Calling ALL Pharmacy Students – What is your chapter doing for Fall Prevention Day – Sept 2017? Reach out to the other chapters and PA officers / members for support of your endeavors. PCP chapter would like to hear from you to coordinate state-wide efforts. Contact: l.finn@usciences.edu
From Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society – Western Division: You are invited:

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society-Western Division, in association with the UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, is proud to present the 25th annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine. The conference will be held April 6-8, 2017 at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center, Pittsburgh, PA.

The fastest growing segment of the population comprises individuals above the age of 85 years. The purpose of the conference is to provide an evidence-based approach to help clinicians take exceptional care of these often-frail individuals. Designed by course directors Shuja Hassan, MD; Judith Black, MD; and Neil Resnick, MD, along with the PAGS-WD planning committee, this award-winning course is designed for family practitioners, internists, geriatricians, and other healthcare professionals who provide care to older adults.

Details on the 3-day program. To register, please visit: https://ccehs.upmc.com/liveformalcourses.jsf
Contact Nadine Popovich, Administrator should you have additional questions.

Newsletter prepared by: Laura Finn, BCGP, FASCP

Please submit news and ideas to laurafinncgp@gmail.com

Laura Finn is currently the PA ASCP President and a member of the ASCP Educational Advisory Council. She is an independent consultant pharmacist and adviser to the PCP ASCP chapter.