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Memo to: Raylene M. Rospond Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS,
Timothy J. Ives, Pharm.D., M.P.H., BCPS, FCCP, CPP
From: Ron Polk, Chair, Subcommittee 3
Date: June 3, 2007
Re: Report of AACP Subcommittee 3: Scholarship/Research Development

Committee charges: The committee was charged with the following tasks by Dr. Rospond on October 20, 2006:

1. Identify faculty development needs of pharmacy practice faculty related to scholarship and research
2. Identify resources already available to address these development needs.
3. Develop recommendations for the Section and for AACP leadership for programming related to the development of research and scholarship in pharmacy practice faculty
4. Develop recommendations for Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy on the development of research and scholarship of pharmacy practice faculty.
5. Prepare a report for the mid-year and annual for inclusion in section business meetings at the ASHP Midyear Clinical meeting and AACP annual meeting.

Membership: The subcommittee membership consisted of:

Ron Polk, Chair	Virginia Commonwealth University	repolk@vcu.edu
Sharon Youmans	University of California at SF	sly@itsa.uscf.edu
Debbie Byrd	University Tennessee - Memphis	dbyrd4@utmem.edu
Laura Welch	University of Charleston	laurawelch@ucwv.edu

The following is a summary of the committee's approach to the assigned tasks and a summary of the preliminary findings.

Approach to the task: The committee decided that a survey sent to all practice faculty that addressed the charges would be the most reasonable approach to obtaining broad faculty input. The committee drafted a questionnaire that (1) obtained demographic information of the respondents; (2) asked faculty to directly address the committee charges and (3) obtained information regarding faculty attitudes towards scholarship and research.

The committee members had no training in survey research or in the construction of a questionnaire. Dr. Norman Carroll, Professor of Pharmacy Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University, agreed to review the questionnaire and to provide his insights. The committee incorporated his suggestions into the next draft of the questionnaire. The draft questionnaire was then sent to the clinical practice faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University who were requested to take the survey and to determine if the questionnaire was clear and free of ambiguities. Approximately 10 faculty responded and provided additional suggestions that were incorporated into the final questionnaire.

The committee also decided that the results of the questionnaire would be submitted for publication if the data appeared worthy. Consequently, the committee obtained IRB approval from three of the 4 respective IRB committees (UCSF, VCU and UT-Memphis).

The final survey containing 30 questions was placed into “Survey Monkey” (www.surveymonkey.com) by Dr. Debbie Byrd. An e-mail was then sent on May 15, 2007 to a listing of Department Chairs previously received by Dr. Polk from AACP that had been addressed to all department chairs in US Schools of Pharmacy. The e-mail contained an introduction and statement of purpose (Appendix I) and the Survey Monkey Web address of the survey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=456903659665>).

Results: Responses to the questionnaire are all anonymous; there are no individual identifiers to the data. On May 30, 2007 the summary statistics of the completed questionnaire was downloaded (Appendix II, Note: A complete and well-formatted survey is not available. For example, the “free-form” responses appear in separate on-line windows and are not included in the PDF file. If a single file that contains all of the responses can be obtained it will be forwarded when available). A total of 278 responses were obtained, although a number of questions were not completed by some respondents. These 278 respondents represent approximately 15.6% of the 1778 membership of “clinical practice faculty” as identified in the 2006-2007 AACP “Profile of Pharmacy Faculty” (<http://www.aacp.org/site/page.asp?TRACKID=&VID=1&CID=105&DID=3112>).

A quick review of the survey results (Appendix II) appear to be similar to what one might have predicted (e.g., clinical faculty have too little time and too few mentors to participate in research to the extent that they-or their department chairs—may desire). The observation that ~55% of respondents stated that research was required for advancement at their institution, yet only 31% believed that research *should* be required for advancement deserves follow-up. In addition, a number of lengthy comments were received that appear to question the validity of a presumed premise of the survey, that if faculty had access to training programs or additional time, that they would take advantage of this to become better scholars.

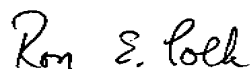
Limitations: These data suffer from all of the limitations and biases of any survey, including selection bias (undercoverage), non-response bias and “don’t know, haven’t decided” (<http://www.lhs.logan.k12.ut.us/~jsmart/Bias.htm>).

When this report was prepared on June 3, 2007 it appears that we will have access to the individual faculty-level data and not just the summary/aggregated data. We will attempt an analysis of the individual-level data so we can stratify the results (such as attitude regarding publications) by

demographics (such as time in practice or number of students that are trained/year or the number of hours of lecture given/year).

Specific responses to the four committee charges (above) will require additional assessment of the survey results; these will be included in the verbal report at the July AACP Annual Meeting. The results will be examined and sorted by demographic characteristics. Before this final analysis the committee is planning to send the summary of the data in a second mailing to the same department chairs. In addition, we will ask that they send out the questionnaire a second time in a final attempt to increase the “n” for the survey respondents. The committee will plan to write up the results and submit to the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education.

On behalf of the committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron E. Polk". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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