

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
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**United States House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
and Education**

**Public Witness Testimony for the Record Regarding FY 2012 funding levels for programs
of interest to U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy**

AACP and its member colleges and schools of pharmacy appreciate the continued support of the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Our nation's 124 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy are engaged in a wide-range of programs supported by grants and funding administered through the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Education. We also understand the difficult task you face annually in your deliberations to do the most good for the nation and remain fiscally responsible to the same. AACP respectfully offers the following recommendations for your consideration as you undertake your deliberations.

**US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SUPPORTED
PROGRAMS AT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

**AACP supports the [Friends of AHRQ](#) recommendation of \$405 million for AHRQ
programs in FY12.**

Pharmacy faculty are strong partners with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

- Vincent J. Willey, Associate Professor at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, was appointed to the Comparative Effectiveness Research Pharmacy Workgroup.
- AHRQ Effective Healthcare programs including the Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERTs) and the Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness (DECIDE) support pharmacy faculty researchers focused on improving the effectiveness of healthcare services.
- Researcher faculty at The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy's Center for Health Outcomes and PharmacoEconomic Research, support the Arizona CERT and its mission to improve therapeutic outcomes and reduce adverse events caused by drug interactions and drugs that prolong the QT interval, especially those affecting women. Researchers determined that certain drug combinations increased the risk of death. Published research from this CERT includes the 2010 *Women's Health Research: Progress, Pitfalls and Promise*, for the Institute of Medicine and a comparison study on the US Department of Veterans Affairs drug-drug interactions compared to two standard compendia. #[U18 HS17001](#)

- Almut G. Winterstein, University of Florida, has received a two-year \$482,000 award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for “Comparative Safety and Effectiveness of Stimulants in Medicaid Youth with ADHD.” #[5R01HS018506-02](#)
- Sean D. Sullivan, University of Washington, received a \$2.45 million grant from AHRQ to implement the multidisciplinary Mentored Clinical Scientist Comparative Effectiveness Research Career Development (K12) Program in collaboration with research partners at Group Health Research Institute, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and the Veterans' Administration Health Services Research and Development Center of Excellence. #[1K12HS019482-01](#)
- Daniel C. Malone, University of Arizona, received a three-year grant from AHRQ for \$1.25 million, to evaluate awareness of CER guides by pharmacists and physicians and identify critical skills needed to use these reviews to support and encourage safe and effective prescribing of medications. #[1R18HS019220-01](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

AACP supports the [CDC Coalition](#) recommendation of \$7.7 billion for CDC core programs in FY12 and the Friends of NCHS recommendation of \$162 million for the National Center for Health Statistics.

The educational outcomes of a pharmacist’s education include those related to public health. When in community-based positions, pharmacists are frequently providers of first contact. The opportunity to identify potential public health threats through regular interaction with patients provides public health agencies such as the CDC with on-the-ground epidemiologists. Pharmacists support the public health system through risk identification of patients seeking medications associated with preventing and treating travel-related illnesses. Pharmacy faculty are engaged in CDC-supported research in areas such as immunization delivery, integration of pharmacogenetics in the pharmacy curriculum and inclusion of pharmacists in emergency preparedness. Information from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is essential for faculty engaged in health services research and for the professional education of the pharmacist.

- Katie J. Suda, faculty member at the University of Tennessee, was supported by CDC funding to conduct a national analysis of outpatient anti-infective prescribing patterns. She also prepared a continuing education program in partnership with the CDC entitled, “Weighing in on Antibiotic Resistance: Community Pharmacists Tip the Scale,” featured on the CDC Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/specific-groups/hcp/ce-course.html>. The program details the CDC’s Get Smart program, focused on decreasing the amount of unnecessary antibiotics in the community.
- Grace Kuo, Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of California San Diego, founded PharmGenEd™, an evidence-based pharmacogenomics education program designed for pharmacists and physicians, pharmacy and medical students, and other healthcare professionals and is supported by funding from CDC. #[IU38GD000070](#)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

AACP supports the [Friends of HRSA](#) recommendation of \$7.65 billion for FY12.

HRSA is a federal agency with a wide-range of policy and service components. Faculty at colleges and schools of pharmacy are integral to the success of many of these. Colleges and schools of pharmacy are the administrative units for interprofessional and community-based linkages programs including geriatric education centers and area health education centers.

Pharmacy faculty research issues related to rural health delivery. Student pharmacists benefit from diversity program funding including Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students.

Office of Pharmacy Affairs

AACP recommends a program funding of \$5 million for FY12 for the Office of Pharmacy Affairs.

AACP member institutions are actively engaged in Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) efforts to improve the quality of care for patients in federally-qualified health centers and entities eligible to participate in the 340B drug discount program. The success of the HRSA [Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Collaborative](#) is a direct result of past OPA actions linking colleges and schools of pharmacy with federally-qualified health centers. The result of these links has been the establishment of medical homes that improve health outcomes for underserved and disadvantaged patients through the integration of clinical pharmacy services. The Office of Pharmacy Affairs would benefit from a direct line-item appropriation so that public-private partnerships aimed at improving the quality of care provided at federally qualified health centers can be sustained and expanded.

Office of Telehealth Advancement

Technology is an important component for improving healthcare quality and maintaining or increasing access to care. Colleges and schools of pharmacy utilize technology to increase access to care, improve care quality and to increase the reach of education to student and practicing pharmacists.

- Keri H. Naglosky, Marcia M. Worley, Timothy P. Stratton and Randall D. Seifert University of Minnesota, received a \$63,000 grant for their study, “Pilot Study to Determine the Effectiveness of Pharmacist Provided MTM Using Face-to-Face and TeleMTM in the Treatment of Long-Haul Drivers with Hypertension Department of Transportation Classifications Stage 1, 2 and 3.”
- Leigh Ann Ross and Sarah Fontenot, faculty at the University of Mississippi, work with The [Delta Health Alliance](#) on many projects including its HRSA telehealth grant and as members of the HRSA Patient Safety Collaborative, receiving the Clinical Pharmacy Services Improvement Award in 2010. Five Delta hospitals have telemedicine capabilities as a result of its funding and 86,083 individuals received medical or health education services during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. #[H2AIT16626](#)

Poison Control Centers

HRSA grant funding supports the management of ten of the 57 poison control centers by pharmacy faculty.

- In 2010, the [Maryland Poison Center](#), headed by Bruce Anderson, faculty at the University of Maryland, answered ~36,000 human exposure calls, ~2,000 animal exposures and ~25,000 requests for poison or drug information and over 70% of the human exposure calls were managed on site, avoiding treatment at a health care facility. This year, Paul Starr, also at the University of Maryland, was recognized for his 20 years as a certified specialist in poison information. #[H4BHS15526](#)

Bureau of Health Professions (BHP)

AACP supports the [Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition](#) (HPNEC) recommendation of \$762.5 million for Title VII and VIII programs in FY12.

AACP member institutions are active participants in BHP programs. Two colleges of pharmacy are current grantees in the Centers of Excellence program (Xavier University School of Pharmacy). This program focuses on increasing the number of underserved

individuals attending health professions institutions. Colleges and schools of pharmacy are also part of Title VII interprofessional and community-based linkages programs including Geriatric Education Centers and Area Health Education Centers. These programs are essential for creating the educational approaches necessary for the Institute of Medicine's recommendations of improving quality through team-based, patient-centered care and serve as valuable experiential education sites for student pharmacists.

- Gayle A. Hudgins, faculty at the University of Montana, was awarded an ARRA supplement of \$132,446 from HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions, for equipment to enhance training for health professionals.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

AACP recommends a funding level of \$3.7 billion for FDA programs in FY12.

The FDA sees the colleges and schools of pharmacy as essential partners in assuring the public has access to a healthcare professional well versed in the science of safety. Pharmacy faculty partner with the FDA to improve the drug manufacturing process through the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE) and increase the science-base for decisions regarding drug and device safety and effectiveness.

- Dianne M. Cappelletty, Associate Professor at The University of Toledo, was recently appointed to serve on the advisory committee to the Division of Anti-Infective and Ophthalmology Products.
- James E. Polli, University of Maryland, received \$1,099,990 from the FDA for "Pharmacokinetic Studies of Epileptic Drugs: Evaluation of Brand & Generic Antiepileptic Drug Products in Patients."
- Michael J. Pikal, University of Connecticut, is a recipient of \$19,899 from the FDA-supported National Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE) for Qbd Lyophilized Protein Parenteral Manufacturing Processes
- A team of researchers led by Dr. Margaret O. James, professor and chair of medicinal chemistry at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, has discovered that the chemical triclosan hinders an enzyme linked to the metabolism of estrogen and future research may show its relationship in pregnancy complications.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

AACP supports the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research](#) recommendation of \$35 billion for FY12.

Pharmacy faculty are supported in their research by nearly every institute at the NIH. The NIH-supported research at AACP member institutions spans the research spectrum from the creation of new knowledge through the translation of that new knowledge to providers and patients. In 2010, pharmacy faculty researchers received more than \$358 million in grant support from the NIH. AACP member institutions are concerned, as are other health professions education organizations, of the need to increase the number of biomedical researchers.

- At the University of California, San Francisco, Kathleen M. Giacomini and co-lead Deanna L. Kroetz received \$15.1 million in funding over the next five years from the NIH for research into the genetics behind membrane transporters and a branch project from that research that will focus on the genetic factors that determine responses to the anti-diabetic drug, metformin in African American patients with type 2 diabetes.

[#2U19GM061390-11](#)

- Michael J. Katovich, faculty at the University of Florida, was awarded a \$2.5 million, five-year award from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for “ACE2 in Vascular Endothelial Function.” #[2R01HL056921-15](#)
- Alice M. Clark and Ameeta K. Agarwal, University of Mississippi, received \$388,221 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study New Drugs for Opportunistic Infections. #[5R01AI027094-21](#)
- John J. Lawrence, faculty at The University of Montana, received \$1,713,300 from NIH to study “Differential Modes of Cholinergic Transmission onto Cellular Hippocampal Targets.” #[1R01NS069689-01A1](#)
- Eugene D. Morse, the University at Buffalo, received two grants: \$952,000 in funding for, “Clinical Pharmacology Quality Assurance and Quality Control” funded by the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases/Division of AIDS and \$2.3 Million for, “Clinical Pharmacology Lab from NIH to Promote HIV Research in Africa.” #[272200800019C-4-0-1](#)
- Jordan K. Zjawiony and Charles L. Burandt, the University of North Carolina, received \$71,500 from the NIH to study Chemistry and Pharmacology of Newly Emerging Psychoactive Plants-Year 2. #[5R03DA023491-02](#)

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPORTED PROGRAMS AT COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY

ACCP supports the [Student Aid Alliance’s](#) recommendations for:

1. Pell Grant maximum be maintained at \$5550;
2. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) should be funded at \$333 million; and
3. Maintaining the in-school interest subsidy for graduate program loans.

ACCP recommends a funding level of \$160 million for the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE).

The Department of Education supports the education of healthcare professionals by:

- assuring access to education through student financial aid programs;
- supporting educational research allows faculty to determine improvements in educational approaches; and
- maintaining the oversight of higher education through the approval of accrediting agencies.

ACCP actively supports increased funding for undergraduate student financial assistance programs. Admission to into the pharmacy professional degree program requires at least two years of undergraduate preparation. Student financial assistance programs are essential to assuring colleges and schools of pharmacy are accessible to qualified students. Likewise, financial assistance programs that support graduate education are an important component meeting our nation’s need for scientists and educators.