

AACP Policy Agenda First Session of the 110th Congress

Since 1990 the mission of pharmaceutical education has been to educate pharmacists capable of providing pharmaceutical care so that a patient's quality of life is improved through the optimal use of drug therapy. These desired outcomes of drug use are: 1) cure of a disease; 2) elimination or reduction of symptoms; 3) arresting or slowing a disease process; 4) prevention of disease; 5) diagnosis of disease; and 6) desired alterations in physiological processes, all with minimum risk to patients. Just as it is generally assumed that physicians are primarily involved in medical care and nurses in nursing care, pharmacists are the primary providers of pharmaceutical care¹.

The mission of pharmaceutical education can best be advanced by integrating AACP policies into public policy development and by identifying and securing resources for the three components of the mission of higher education: teaching; research; and service.

To enhance and advance teaching at colleges and schools of pharmacy AACP will:

- increase the recruitment and retention of faculty by supporting federal agency programs that create opportunities for new faculty to be successful in their institution's promotion process;
- establish academic pharmacy as a key element in interprofessional health professions education programs focused on the Institute of Medicine recommendations for high-quality health care delivery; and
- promote academic pharmacy as the source of value-added, evidence-based educational outcomes that can serve the entire higher education community's desire for high quality, accountable educational experiences for students.

To promote and increase the research contributions of academic pharmacy's research AACP will:

- support the continued funding for federal agencies and their extramural research programs;
- bring to the attention of policy makers the contributions of academic pharmacy to basic and clinical sciences, and the scholarship of learning; and
- broadly disseminate concepts and ideas from academic pharmacy that lend themselves to the creation of new funding resource and improvements in health care and higher education.

To develop and maintain support for academic pharmacy's service contributions to society and the profession AACP will:

- encourage our members to promote their college or school of pharmacy as a partner with the community collaborate with other health professionals and provide avenues for presenting the impact of the these partnerships and collaborations;
- increase the awareness of policy makers of the contributions academic pharmacy makes across the continuum of care including public health and care to the underserved and disadvantaged and the need for sustainable business models in which to provide that care;
- Work to sustain current community-campus partnerships that provide students and faculty with the social context of health care service delivery and research;
- Provide the continuing education needs of experiential program preceptors through evidence-based models such as those included in the Academic Practice Partnerships.

¹ Commission to Implement Change in Pharmaceutical Education, Background Paper 1, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Alexandria, VA, 1990.

Recommended action for the first session of the 110th Congress:

AACP will:

- ◆ support the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act including efforts to make student financial support more accessible and less cumbersome;
- ◆ monitor the activity of the Department of Education and the Secretary's negotiated rule-making efforts to make higher education more accountable and of higher quality and to review the accreditation process to make it more transparent;
- ◆ support the reauthorization of Title VII of the Public Health Service Act health professions education programs including:
 - Restoring the funding and increasing the reach of the diversity programs; and
 - Restructuring programs to focus on innovative, interprofessional education programs that address specific health care needs of national significance including those of underserved and rural communities;
- ◆ challenge policy makers to improve the safety of medication use and increase the effectiveness of the Food and Drug Administration by engaging academic pharmacy as a partner;
- ◆ support the development of interoperable health information systems that allow care to be patient-centered and team based;
- ◆ work to increase or maintain appropriations for programs of interest and benefit to colleges and schools of pharmacy. (e.g.: Title VII health professions education programs; Indian Health Services pharmacy residency training program and loan repayment program; NIH; Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Education.)
- ◆ build upon the current activities of colleges and schools of pharmacy to improve the health and programmatic outcomes of federal programs such as Medicaid, AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and Medicare Part B and Part D, and the 340B drug program.

Approved by AACP Board of Directors
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