

AACP Policy Agenda First Session of the 111th Congress

The mission of pharmaceutical education is to educate pharmacists and researchers capable of improving 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) arrest or slow 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 pharmacy 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 all 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 will serve the entire higher education community's desire for high quality, accountable educational experiences for students.

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

- support the continued funding of federal agencies and their extramural research programs;
- bring to the attention of policy makers the contributions of academic pharmacy to basic and clinical biomedical sciences, translational research and the scholarship of learning; and
- broadly disseminate concepts and ideas from academic pharmacy that lend themselves to the creation of new funding resources 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 these partnerships and collaborations on healthcare;
- increase the awareness of policy makers of the contributions academic pharmacy across the continuum of care including health promotion and disease prevention and that those contributions impact the breadth of patient populations including the uninsured and underserved;
- work to sustain current and develop new community-campus partnerships that provide students and faculty with the social context of health care service delivery and research and create opportunities for healthcare system reorganization;
- provide the continuing education needs of faculty and practitioners 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 111th Congress:

AACP will, within the opportunities offered through economic recovery, healthcare reform and legislation developed through regular order,:

- ◆ advocate for federal support of student financial assistance programs so our students are able to pursue professional and graduate degree opportunities;
- ◆ monitor and respond to the activity of the Department of Education and the Secretary's negotiated rule-making efforts to make higher education more accountable and of high quality and to review the accreditation process;
- ◆ 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;
- ◆ 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; Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; Food and Drug Administration; Indian Health Services pharmacy residency training program and loan repayment program; National Institutes of Health including its research training and loan repayment programs; 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, patient safety collaboratives and the 340B drug program.

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Approved by the AACP Board of Directors
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