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Study Results Demonstrate Pharmacy's Positive Impact on Patient Care

Authors measure benefits of enhanced model of community pharmacy experiential training in award-winning paper

Alexandria, Va. – A pair of faculty members from The University of British Columbia (UBC) will be awarded the 2010 AACP Rufus A. Lyman Award honoring the best paper published in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* (AJPE). The award will be presented at the 2010 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting and Seminars Closing Banquet on Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers.

"An Enhanced Community Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Model to Improve Patient Care" was authored by Rosemin Kassam, B.Sc. Pharm, Pharm.D., and Mona Kwong, B.Sc. Pharm, M.Sc., of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at The University of British Columbia. The paper quantifies the benefits of an enhanced advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) community pharmacy model compared to the traditional program by comparing basic and comprehensive pharmaceutical care provided by students and assessing preceptors' perceptions of the APPE.

The authors conducted a pilot study consisting of one enhanced APPE arm and two traditional APPE (control) arms. The enhanced APPE included a preceptor education program, a 5-day, on-site student orientation and an 8-week experience completed at one community site instead of at two. Results indicated that student pharmacists participating in the enhanced program were able to provide better patient care, which included more student-led interventions for optimizing new and refill prescriptions as well as comprehensive pharmaceutical care consultations.

"The UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences is most proud of and excited by the selection of Kassam and Kwong's paper for the 2010 Rufus A. Lyman Award," said Faculty dean and professor Robert D. Sindelar, Ph.D. "As all colleges, schools and faculties of pharmacy strive to align community pharmacy practice models for experiential learning with educational outcomes consistent with needed changes in practice and accreditation standards, Kassam and Kwong's research has demonstrated the synergy between practice enhancement and the Academy. An enhanced experiential practice model can make a positive difference on the level of patient care delivered at a community site."

Kassam is an associate professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC. She joined the university in 1999 as its first director for the Structured Practice Education Program, bringing more than a decade of experience in community and hospital practice. Under her leadership, the program has seen a significant impact in experiential learning, preceptor development, introduction of interprofessional opportunities and innovative patient-centered experiences within institutional and community pharmacy settings.

Kwong is a coordinator for the Structured Practice Education Program, lecturer and research associate in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC. As a primary care pharmacist and manager of Howe Street Pharmacy in downtown Vancouver, Kwong is involved in various community-outreach initiatives aimed at

optimizing medication management among the most vulnerable, such as those with HIV/AIDs, mental health, palliative care and seniors. She is also part of the train-the-trainer demonstration project with the British Columbia Pharmacy Association for training pharmacists in administering injections.

“The Lyman Award is one of the most significant honors in pharmacy education as it is awarded to the authors of the best paper published in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* each year,” said Joseph T. DiPiro, editor of AJPE and executive dean of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. “The authors of the Lyman Award paper demonstrated how an enhanced model of community pharmacy experiential training improved patient care. The findings have potential to positively influence many colleges of pharmacy and are critically important for an outcomes driven curriculum.”

The award is presented annually as a framed certificate along with a stipend of \$5,000 to be shared by the authors of the paper.

The 2010 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars, *Expanding Our Horizons*, will be held July 10-14 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers in Seattle, Wash. The conference offers educational programming, exhibits, networking events and award presentations. Registration fees are waived for credentialed journalists. Visit the [AACP Web site](#) or contact our media relations representative for more information.

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About AACP

Founded in 1900, AACP is a national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 120 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 5,900 faculty, 54,700 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,400 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education.