

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Third Annual American Pharmacy Educator Week Highlights Research, Teaching, Service and Leadership of Pharmacy Faculty Nationwide**

Alexandria, Va. -- Oct. 23 served as the kick-off for a week-long campaign during which colleges and schools of pharmacy across the country will celebrate the ways in which **pharmacy educators create new knowledge, push the boundaries of discovery and improve health** in the U.S. During [American Pharmacy Educator Week](#), organized by the [American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy](#) (AACCP), schools will also reach out to encourage more students to consider careers in pharmacy education.

The growing **demand for well-qualified pharmacists** is fueling a **demand for pharmacy faculty** to educate the next generation. That demand is reflected in the increase in the [number of colleges and schools of pharmacy](#) nationwide. In 2008, the total number of institutions that had pharmacy programs was 105. That number grew to 116 in June 2009, 120 as of July 2010 and 124 as of July 2011.

"The [Affordable Care Act](#) will bring more than 32 million people into our healthcare system and many of them will require the medications that pharmacists research, distribute and help patients manage," said William G. Lang, AACCP vice president of policy and advocacy. "That reality, coupled with the aging baby boomer population, is creating a greater-than-ever demand for pharmacists that can only be met if we have the diverse, well-qualified faculty needed to educate them."

Today's pharmacy educators have unprecedented opportunities to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Medicare, state Medicaid programs, local and state health departments, and tribal organizations to help reorganize our healthcare system around disease prevention and helping people adopt healthy behaviors.

Colleges and schools of pharmacy will hold "life in academia" luncheons with faculty and students, select a student to be "dean for the day," and host other events and celebrations Oct. 23-29 to inform students about the benefits of a career as a pharmacy faculty member. They will highlight some of their leading faculty, including:

Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D., director of the University of Florida Center for Pharmacogenomics, who led a team of researchers that discovered that heart failure patients' genes may play a role in determining whether they should be prescribed certain heart drugs.

Joseph T. DiPiro, Pharm.D., professor and executive dean at South Carolina College of Pharmacy, who has authored pharmacotherapy-related textbooks used world-wide and are internationally recognized as key instructional and reference resources for pharmacy education.

Jerika T. Lam, Pharm.D., and La Donna M. Oelschlaeger, Pharm.D., School of Pharmacy faculty members at Loma Linda University, who are involved in global efforts to improve healthcare, including traveling to Malawi to work and teach at a rural hospital.

Todd D. Sorenson, Pharm.D., professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, who developed and leads a program that creates residency experiences for student pharmacists, benefitting both local healthcare organizations and the College of Pharmacy.

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About AACP

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is a national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 124 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy with more than 6,000 faculty and 60,000 students, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education. Visit [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org) to learn more.