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AACP Celebrates Second Annual American Pharmacy Educator Week

Alexandria, Va. – On Oct. 24, 2010, colleges and schools of pharmacy across the country embark on a week-long national campaign to honor the [innovative discoveries and accomplishments](#) of the nation's pharmacy educators. The second annual [American Pharmacy Educator Week](#), Oct. 24-30, 2010, will promote careers in pharmacy education and encourage students to shape the future of tomorrow's healthcare by becoming pharmacy educators.

The number of [colleges and schools of pharmacy](#) continues to increase, creating a high demand for well-qualified pharmacy faculty of diverse backgrounds and experiences. In 2008, the total number of institutions that had pharmacy programs was 105. That number grew to 116 in June 2009 and 120 as of July 2010.

"Pharmacy educators are dramatically influencing the delivery of care through discovery and innovation," said AACP President Rodney A. Carter, Pharm.D., associate dean for professional and external relations at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

At the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy, Dr. Debra Tonetti's research team has found that expression of inflammatory-related genes in breast tissue of women who have previously given birth may explain the aggressiveness and frequency of pregnancy-associated breast cancer. These findings indicate that a balance between high risk inflammatory and protective hormone signaling gene expression may ultimately determine a woman's individual breast cancer risk. Dr. Aleem Gangjee, professor of medicinal chemistry at the Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy, discovered single agents that function as combination chemotherapeutic agents. Such agents could be useful alone or in combination for the treatment of a variety of cancers.

The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 creates substantial opportunities for academic pharmacy to help patients receive increased access to high quality care that is team-based, patient-centered and focused on disease prevention and wellness. Improving the quality of care through the patient-centered medical home, for example, is already an area of research and service for many pharmacy faculty. Educators will also have opportunities to engage with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Medicare, state Medicaid programs, local and state health departments, and tribal organizations to assist in reorganizing our healthcare system around prevention of disease and helping patients engage in healthy behaviors.

"Through their work every day, pharmacy faculty demonstrate the best aspects of the mission of higher education. Their teaching prepares students to provide culturally competent care to ethnically and economically diverse patients and populations," said William G. Lang, AACP vice president of policy and advocacy. "Pharmacy faculty, especially our clinical faculty, improve the health outcomes of patients, increase access to prevention and wellness components of individual and public health, and translate new knowledge to providers and patients."

“There has been a significant change in the public’s perception of how team-based, patient-centered approaches to care, that integrate the services of the pharmacist, improve quality and increase access,” Lang continued. “These changes are a direct result of the teaching, research and service of pharmacy faculty.”

Promotional kits were distributed to all 120 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy containing items such as brochures about the benefits and advantages of a career in pharmacy education and wall decals highlighting significant achievements of pharmacy educators for schools to display throughout the week. Contact your local college or school of pharmacy to discuss its contributions to both your community and to the future of healthcare around the world.

To learn more about American Pharmacy Educator Week, visit <http://www.aacp.org/career/facultyrecruitment/apew>.

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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 6,096 faculty, 54,700 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,400 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education. Visit www.aacp.org to learn more about AACP and stay connected with the Association on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) #AACPAPEW10.