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University of Maryland Professor to Receive Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award
An innovative and devoted pharmacy educator, recipient adds AACP award to list of accomplishments

Alexandria, Va. – The [American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy](#) (AACP) will honor Robert S. Beardsley, Ph.D., R.Ph., professor and vice-chair for education in the pharmaceutical health services research department at the [University of Maryland School of Pharmacy](#), for his **excellence as a teacher**, his outstanding achievements as a **researcher and scholar**, and his overall impact on pharmacy education and the profession.

Beardsley came to the [University of Maryland](#) School of Pharmacy in September of 1977 as an assistant professor and then served as an associate professor from 1982 to 1994. In July of 1994, he was promoted to professor and also served as assistant/associate dean for student affairs for 16 years.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with **Bob Chalmers** as an emerging faculty member several years ago and am humbled to receive this award named in his honor," said Beardsley. "He was a gifted educator and an outstanding individual."

Throughout his 34-year career, Beardsley has been enormously popular with students. He was bestowed with the Outstanding Teaching Award for the School of Pharmacy on three different occasions, as well as the Recognition Award from both the Student Government Association and the Class of 2005. As an educator who considers his students and their needs when planning his classes, Beardsley challenges his students to apply what they are learning to patient-centered practice.

"Robert Beardsley is a top-notch educator. His classes are centered on both producing better pharmacists and also enhancing students' personal development," said Natalie D. Eddington, Ph.D., FAAPS, dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. "He challenges his students to enjoy the learning process and to think rather than memorize."

When developing curricula, Beardsley brings innovative approaches to education, such as dual degree programs and problem-based learning. He was selected by AACP as one of four authors to write the White Paper on Student Professionalism and to chair the joint APhA ASP-AACP Task Force on Professionalism that revised the **Oath of the Pharmacist** and created the **Pledge of Professionalism**. Under his leadership, the Task Force addressed the importance of professionalism in the development of future pharmacists and outlined in detail numerous strategies to facilitate the development of professionalism among students and to promote and recognize professional behavior among students, preceptors and faculty. He also served as chair of AACP's Council of Deans in 2003-04.

"When one thinks of **professionalism among student pharmacists**, Dr. Beardsley is the world leader," said Lucinda L. Maine, Ph.D., R.Ph., AACP executive vice president and CEO. "His selection as the 2011 Chalmers Award recipient is a fitting tribute for his commitment to excellence in pharmacy education."

Beardsley will receive the [Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award](#) on July 12 during the Examining Excellence Awards Plenary at the 2011 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars in San Antonio, Texas. The award, named for the late Robert K. Chalmers, former AACP president and distinguished educator, consists of a Steuben glass owl sculpture and a monetary prize.

The 2011 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars, *Bridges to Our Bright Future*, will be held July 9-13 at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas. 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 124 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 6,190 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](#).