

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Eight Schools to be Awarded Top Pharmacy Education Award for Exceptional Practice Partnerships

Alexandria, Va. – Eight colleges and schools of pharmacy and their practice partners will be awarded the 2008 AACP Crystal APPLE Award for achieving excellence in providing exemplary experiential education. A diverse array of pharmacy practices are among those selected.

The AACP Crystal APPLE (Academic-Practice Partnerships for Learning Excellence) Award recognizes the contributions of faculty and administrators at colleges and schools of pharmacy, and the pharmacist practitioner educators and administrators who are their practice partners in successfully conducting and supporting quality experiential education in exemplary patient care clinical teaching environments. Merck & Company, Inc. provides generous sponsorship for the project.

In the coming year, a profile describing each partnership will be featured in AACP's *Academic Pharmacy Now* and on the AACP Web site at www.aacp.org in the Academic-Practice Partnership Initiative (APPI) category of the Resources section.

“The AACP Crystal APPLE awards program seeks to identify the most exemplary clinical education sites as judged by students and peers and hold them up as models for the Academy,” explained Dr. Lucinda L. Maine, AACP executive vice president and CEO. “The competition for this prestigious recognition is intense and reflects the strong commitment to quality experiential education of these academic-practice partners.”

The following schools and their practice partners (listed in alphabetical order by state) will be honored with a Tiffany & Co. crystal apple and plaque, as well as an honorarium for professional development during the 2009 AACP Interim Meeting Awards Ceremony on Monday, February 23, 2009 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Va.

Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy

Dean: Bobby G. Bryant, Pharm.D.

Practice Partner: Perry County Health Department and Health Care System

Professional Experience Program: Robert Henderson, Pharm.D.

Site Administrator: Frances Ford, RN, director, Sewing Seeds for Hope

Preceptor: Charles D. Sands, Pharm.D.

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

Dean: Natalie D. Eddington, Ph.D.

Practice Partner: Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health
Professional Experience Program: Cynthia Boyle, Pharm.D.
Site Administrator: David K. Henderson, M.D., Clinical Center deputy director
Preceptor: Frank Pucino, Pharm.D.

Northeastern University School of Pharmacy

Dean: John R. Reynolds, Pharm.D.
Practice Partner: Boston Medical Center
Professional Experience Program: Debra Copeland, Pharm.D.
Site Administrator: Arthur C. Theodore, M.D., director, Medical Intensive Care Unit
Preceptor: John Marshall, Pharm.D.

University of Michigan College of Pharmacy

Dean: Frank J. Ascione, Ph.D.
Practice Partner: East Ann Arbor Health Center
Professional Experience Program: Nancy Mason, Pharm.D.
Site Administrator: Connie Standiford, M.D., associate medical director, Ambulatory Care Services
Preceptor: Hae Mi Choe, Pharm.D.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy

Dean: Robert A. Blouin, Pharm.D.
Practice Partner: Mission Health Hospitals
Professional Experience Program: Kim Leadon, M.Ed.
Site Administrator: Joe Damore, CEO, and Ellen Williams, director of pharmacy
Preceptor: Elizabeth L. Michalets, Pharm.D.

University of Cincinnati James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy

Dean: Daniel Acosta, Jr., Ph.D.
Practice Partner: Community Pharmacy Care
Professional Experience Program: Michael Doherty, Pharm.D.
Site Administrator: Don Ruwe, pharmacist and owner
Preceptor: Michael A. Hegener, Pharm.D.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy

Dean: Arthur A. Nelson, Jr., Ph.D.
Practice Partner: Veteran's Administration
Professional Experience Program: Craig Cox, Pharm.D.
Site Administrator: Cynthia Foslien-Nash, pharmacy director
Preceptor: Angela Treadway, Pharm.D.

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy

Dean: Victor A. Yanchick, Ph.D.
Practice Partner: Buford Road Pharmacy
Professional Experience Program: Beverly Talluto, Pharm.D.
Site Administrator: Ronald G. Davis, pharmacist in charge, owner
Preceptor: Ronald G. Davis, B.S.

“Everyone within the pharmacy profession, practitioners, educators, students and leaders, bear the responsibility to prepare our next generation of pharmacists,” said David Miller, director of pharmacy affairs for Merck & Co., Inc. “The Crystal APPLE Award isn’t just an awards program to recognize a few individuals but rather it highlights models that any pharmacist can develop in collaboration with their school 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 all 108 U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 5,000 faculty, 50,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 3,900 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education. To learn more about AACP, visit its Web site at www.aacp.org.

About Merck

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