

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **AACP Supports Project to Study Pharmacy Practice Public Policy**

**Alexandria, Va.** – Research teams at the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Pharmacy and St. John's University College of Pharmacy & Allied Health will study selected provisions in state pharmacy practice acts and board of pharmacy regulations related to pharmacists advising patients, particularly those with limited English proficiency, on how to obtain best results from use of their medications. Further, investigators will analyze existing practice and education resources to enable pharmacists to communicate effectively with limited English proficiency patients.

Sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA), the project titled "Language Access Provisions in State Pharmacy Practice Acts and Relevant Resources Project" will include a two-phase process. During Phase I, UK researchers will focus on an analysis of language access provisions in state pharmacy practice acts and board of pharmacy regulations. Phase II will identify relevant resources available in the pharmacy community to meet the needs of non-English speaking patients. The project is being contracted by the National Health Law Program (NHLP) with funding from The California Endowment.

Dr. Joseph L. Fink III, professor of pharmacy law and policy in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, will lead the study at UK College of Pharmacy, and Drs. Priti Patel and Emily Ambizas, both assistant clinical professors at St. John's University College of Pharmacy & Allied Health, will serve as co-directors of Phase II.

"Pharmacists are less aware than they should be of relevant federal laws requiring that patients receive information and education in their own language," explained Dr. Lucinda L. Maine, AACP executive vice president and CEO. "This project will help us better understand how state pharmacy practice acts help or hinder language access and what resources are or should be available to support pharmacists in their pharmaceutical care and communications."

In recent years, pharmacists and pharmacy educators have placed great emphasis on preparing practitioners to communicate effectively with patients about safe and effective use of medications. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects individuals from discrimination based on race, color or national origin and any entity, including pharmacies and pharmacists, that accept federal money (e.g., Medicare and Medicaid) must comply with this law. Provisions in the statute have been interpreted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the courts as specifically protecting individuals with limited English proficiency, which deems them entitled to assistance to assure that they receive the same quality of health care services as individuals who are English proficient.

"Providing information and tools pharmacists can use to assure their patients achieve optimal outcomes from medications is our ultimate goal with this project" added Rebecca P. Snead, NASPA executive vice president and CEO.

Collaborating on the project from the UK College of Pharmacy will be Dr. Ralph Bouvette, associate professor, Dr. Peter Cohron, associate professor, Mykel Tidwell, second year pharmacy student and Ryan Valentin, UK law reference librarian. At St. John's University College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Dr. Wenchen Wu will serve as a collaborator.

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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](http://www.aacp.org).

**About NASPA**

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPA).

**About NHeLP**

The National Health Law Program is a national non-profit public interest law firm working to increase and improve access to quality health care on behalf of America's limited income individuals. NHeLP provides legal and policy analysis, advocacy, information and education on behalf of the working and unemployed poor, people of color, women, children and their families, immigrants, and individuals with special needs.