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AACP Supports President Obama's Proposed \$1.1 Billion to Fight Opioid Abuse

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy praises President Obama's [proposed \\$1.1 billion in new funding to fight opioid abuse](#) through both access and education. Academic pharmacy has been active in the efforts to educate future pharmacists on substance abuse and dependency for many years, and has engaged experts in the field to develop [curricular guidelines](#) for colleges and schools of pharmacy.

AACP particularly supports the \$30 million proposed to “evaluate the effectiveness of treatment programs employing medication-assisted treatment under real-world conditions and help identify opportunities to improve treatment for patients with opioid use disorders.” Faculty at our nation’s pharmacy schools are well-positioned to engage in this evaluation and improvement of life-saving and life-changing treatments.

At the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, [Dr. Sharon Walsh's](#) clinical research has focused on pharmacological issues in opioid and cocaine dependence, including potential pharmacotherapies for its safe and effective treatment, and pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic characteristics of opioid treatment agents.

At Shenandoah University, a federal grant will allow pharmacy faculty to prepare future healthcare providers to identify patients’ behavioral health issues related to substance abuse, and to effectively intervene and refer patients for treatment when needed. St. Louis College of Pharmacy and the Washington University School of Medicine have created a joint research center to find better, safer and more effective ways to use prescription medications to improve health.

AACP supports the continuing education of practicing pharmacists on treatments related to substance abuse. As the most accessible healthcare provider, pharmacists are uniquely qualified to educate patients on opioid abuse and misuse, as well as provide access to opioid overdose treatment when needed. Across the country, pharmacy educators and students are teaming up with other healthcare practitioners, universities and community organizations to combat this growing epidemic.

Pharmacists are on the front lines of this battle and AACP member institutions are committed to preparing future pharmacists who are ready to join the fight to end substance abuse and dependency. You can read the president’s full announcement [here](#). The president’s full funding proposal is available [here](#).