

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2013

Contact: [Maureen Thielemans](#)
Communications Manager
703-739-2330 ext. 1022

University of Maryland Professor Earns Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award
The award recognizes excellence in teaching, research and scholarship.

Alexandria, Va.—The [American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy](#) (AACP) will honor Mary Lynn McPherson, Pharm.D., BCPS, CPE, professor and vice-chair for academic affairs in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the [University of Maryland School of Pharmacy](#), for her **excellence as a teacher**, her outstanding achievements as a **researcher and scholar**, and her overall impact on **pharmacy education** and the profession.

She will receive the [Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award](#) on July 14 during the Opening General Session at the **AACP Annual Meeting, [Pharmacy Education 2013](#)**, in Chicago, Illinois.

“With so many exceptional pharmacy educators in the United States, I am especially honored and humbled to have been chosen for this prestigious award,” said McPherson. “I am passionate about working with my colleagues to prepare student pharmacists not only for graduation but for the impact they surely will make in whatever paths they choose for their pharmacy careers.”

Over the course of her 26-year career, McPherson has amassed an accomplished teaching portfolio and a highly-regarded reputation among Maryland’s students and faculty. She has led the development and/or redesign of many courses in the school’s curriculum, using cutting-edge instructional methods to effectively teach courses such as Self-Care and Nonprescription Pharmacotherapy and Care of the Terminally Ill. She has served as the course manager for more than 20 classes.

McPherson is considered an international authority in the fields of pain management and palliative care. Among her accomplishments in this area of expertise is the development of online training programs in pain management for physicians and nurses, as well as a critical thinking process for appropriate drug use in end-of-life patients that is used by numerous pharmacy and medical practitioners. She also created the first Pain Management and Palliative Care PGY2 Pharmacy Practice Residency in the United States at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and led the effort to establish goals and outcomes for this residency, resulting in recognition by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Most recently, McPherson was awarded one of 11 National Institutes of Health grants to co-lead the University of Maryland’s Center of Excellence in Pain Education. In collaboration with colleagues from the university’s other health profession schools, the university is teaching the next generation of healthcare providers to be better equipped to manage and treat patients living with chronic pain.

“Dr. McPherson has had a sustained positive impact on her students, residents and colleagues,” said School of Pharmacy Dean Natalie D. Eddington, Ph.D., FAAPS, FCP. “She clearly epitomizes the gifted, committed and exceptional teacher that has instilled the lifelong learner concept into her students.”

McPherson’s commitment to and excellence in teaching extends outside the School of Pharmacy. For many years, she was the course manager of the nursing pharmacology elective in the university’s School of Nursing and she continues to lecture on pain management in the School of Medicine’s Department of Physical

Therapy. McPherson implemented the School of Pharmacy's annual Teaching Excellence Day (TED) program, a daylong symposium designed to present topics in instructional design and course development through "high impact" presentations to faculty, preceptors, graduate students and residents. In addition to her academic appointments, McPherson serves as a primary care pharmacist and director of pharmacotherapy services at UniversityCare Heritage Crossing (formerly UniversityCare Waxter) in Baltimore.

"It would be impossible to count the lives that have been touched and enhanced by the work of Dr. McPherson," said Lucinda L. Maine, Ph.D., R.Ph., AACP executive vice president and CEO. "Her patient care roles in diabetes and pain, and her teaching and mentoring of students across the health professions translates into improved health outcomes in so many dimensions."

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 2013 AACP Annual Meeting will be held July 13-17 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. 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.

###

About AACP

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy is the national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education. AACP comprises 129 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy, including more than 6,500 faculty, approximately 60,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,100 individuals pursuing graduate study. To learn more about AACP, visit www.aacp.org.

1727 King Street • Alexandria, VA 22314

p: 703-739-2330 • f: 703-836-8982 • www.aacp.org