

Liaison Officers Report January 2009

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

Federal Forum Expands to Two Exciting Days for 2009!

The Federal Forum, scheduled in just a few short months from April 2-3, 2009 in beautiful and historic San Antonio, Texas and held in conjunction with the APhA Annual Meeting from April 3-6, is expanding to TWO days – offering more of the great programming and valuable CE credits you've come to expect!

FDA Improves Transparency to Drug Safety Information The FDA recently launched a postmarketing safety Web site that provides a single source for drug product safety information. It consolidates information from the FDA and other government sites in a single primary resource for health care providers, providing up-to-date information about safe medication use. The site can help pharmacists develop patients' therapeutic management plans, recommend formulary decisions, and establish processes for drug access.

FDA Releases Study on Consumer Medication Information On December 16, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a study on the usefulness of printed consumer medication information (CMI) that is voluntarily provided by pharmacies. In 1996, Congress set a goal that 95% of patients, when receiving their prescriptions, also receive written information that meets specific criteria for usefulness. FDA's study showed that 94% of patients were receiving written information when receiving their prescriptions but only 75% of these CMIs met the usefulness criteria. The Study also found that CMIs lacked consistency, making the information less comprehensible for patients. In response, FDA intends to initiate a new plan to meet the goals mandated by Congress, such as further discussions with stakeholders, a [new public comment period](#), and the launch of a [new CMI Web site](#).

Reminder: Albuterol Inhalers that Use CFCs to be Phased Out by January 1, 2009

The American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held April 3–6, 2009, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio. Early registration now open.

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

2009 ACCP/ESCP International Congress on Clinical Pharmacy and the
Pharmacotherapy Preparatory Course

Location: Orlando, Florida Dates: Friday, April 24-Tuesday, April 28

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)

[Explore AMCP's Many Professional Resources Quickly and Easily](#)

AMCP members have the inside track on information critical to their decision making. And best of all, these resources are only a click away!

Explore **[AMCP Publications](#)** for the Academy's well-known and often-cited documents, like the *Format for Formulary Submissions* and *Sound Medication Therapy Management Programs, V2.0*.

Visit **[Statistical Data Resources](#)**, where you'll find *The Managed Care Digest Series*, containing useful information from senior care to managed care trends, including established benchmarks and opportunities for MCOs; *The Injectable Digest*, including Biotechnology Innovation, Specialty Product Development and Specialty Pharmacy Management...and much more!

Check out the **[Knowledge Links](#)**, a library of guidelines from AHRQ, CMS, FDA, AMCP and others! Stay on top of your profession with help from AMCP.

[Academic Detailing and Comparative Effectiveness Proposals Supported](#)

AMCP has posted letters of support for two bills introduced earlier this year in Congress: the **[“Independent Drug Education and Outreach Act of 2008,”](#)** which would provide grants or contracts for prescription drug education and outreach programs for health care providers and their patients, and the **[“Comparative Effectiveness Research Act of 2008.”](#)** which would create an institute that would conduct specific research on the effectiveness of alternative health care treatments. To read the letters, click on the bill titles.

Survey Results Show Negative Impact of Medicare Part D “Classes of Clinical Concern”
A report of survey results issued by the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy indicates that current government regulations requiring Medicare’s Part D prescription drug plans to include all drugs in certain designated classes could be costing US taxpayers an additional \$511 million per year. A new law, which could lead to an expansion of the number of drug classes, could increase that cost substantially. “Although enacted with the best intentions, the new law leaves the door open to even higher future costs,” states Judith A. Cahill, CEBS, executive director of the Academy, “We believe it's not necessary. Patients’ abilities to obtain the medications they require are already adequately protected.”

AMCP 21st Annual Meeting & Showcase, April 15-18, 2009 in Orlando, Fla.

[American Society of Consultant Pharmacists \(ASCP\)](#)

[Get started in Consultant and Senior Care Pharmacy by clicking here to learn more about this exciting profession!](#)

[Read about senior care pharmacist services in the December 2008 issue of *Prevention* magazine, "Is Your Parent Over-Medicating?"](#)

[SenioRx Solutions from ASCP: for Assisted Living, Beers List, Geriatrics 101, and Hospice](#)

Grassroots Alert: Obama Transition Team Needs to Hear from Pharmacists!

American Society of Health System-Pharmacists (ASHP)

News Capsules

- 12/23/2008 [ASHP Publishes New Statement on Formulary Systems and P&T Committee](#)
- 12/23/2008 [ASHP Publishes Statement on Value of Pharmacists in Emergency Departments](#)
- 12/19/2008 [ASHP, Pharmacy Groups Meet with Obama Transition Team](#)
- 12/19/2008 [ASHP Partners with 17 States to Standardize Technician Requirements](#)
- 11/25/2008 [ASHP Talks Disaster Response with Pharmacy Stakeholders](#)
(ResourceRx and ICERx)

Programs Calendar by Date

- 1/1/2009 – Applications available for [ASHP Foundation Literature Awards](#)
- 1/7/2009 – Applications available for the [2009 Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety](#)
- 1/9/2009 – Deadline for [Federal Services Junior Investigator Research Grant](#) applications
- 1/21/2009 – Deadline for [Pharmacy Leadership Institute](#) applications
- 2/13/2009 – Deadline for [Junior Investigator Research Grant](#) applications
- 4/1/2009 – Deadline for [Medication Safety Team Grant](#) applications

Nominate a Candidate for ASHP Elective Office

ASHP is on the lookout for nominees to the elective offices of President; Chair, House of Delegates; and Member, Board of Directors. Individuals or affiliated state societies are encouraged to nominate ASHP members who are committed to building a strong future for health-system pharmacy. Nominations must be submitted to the ASHP Committee on Nominations, via e-mail (ASHPCON@ashp.org), fax 301-634-5982, or U.S. mail (Attention: Committee on Nominations), no later than February 1.

ASHP Foundation No Report

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

2009 AACP Interim Meeting

Academic Pharmacy's Role in Value-Driven Healthcare

Hotel and Convention Hotel:

[Crystal Gateway Marriott](#)

Arlington, Virginia

February 21–25, 2009

The final date for online registration is Friday, Feb. 6, 2009. After this date, registration is

only available onsite. For more information, contact Angie A. Edwards, AACP accounting and member services coordinator, at aedwards@aacp.org.

USC School of Pharmacy Hosts Conference on Safety-Net Clinics <http://www.aacp.org/>

The University of Southern California School of Pharmacy is hosting a conference, [Developing Partnerships between Schools of Pharmacy and Safety-Net Clinics](#), Feb. 12-13, 2009 in Los Angeles, Calif. Speakers at the conference include experts from around the country—including leaders from HRSA and the National Board of Pharmacy, as well as educators on the frontlines of clinic care from Oregon, Iowa, Minnesota, Arizona and California; the programming covers both rural and urban areas. To register, visit the [USC School of Pharmacy Web site](#).

65 Wal-Mart Scholars to be Selected for 2009!

Thanks to Wal-Mart's continued support, AACP is pleased to announce a 30% growth in this the fifth year of the Wal-Mart Scholars Program. Funded by Wal-Mart, the program will provide \$1,000 scholarships to 65 student-faculty pairs from AACP member institutions to attend the 2009 AACP Annual Meeting and Teachers Seminar in Boston, Mass. July 18-22, 2009. The scholarship will cover 100% of the student's registration costs and 50% of the faculty's registration costs at the early bird rate to attend the Annual Meeting. The scholarship will also cover registration for both the student and faculty mentor to attend the Teacher's Seminar. Beyond registration, recipients can choose to apply the remainder of the scholarship to airfare, lodging and other meeting expenses for the student. [Applications](#) for the 2009 program must arrive at AACP by **5:00 p.m. EST Feb. 16, 2009**. Questions? Contact jathay@aacp.org.

Academic Pharmacy Now and December AACP Careers Available

Online <http://www.aacp.org/>

The latest editions of [Academic Pharmacy Now \(APN\)](#) and [AACP Careers](#) are currently available online! In the winter issue of *APN*, the official magazine of the Academy, you'll read about the latest cohort of CTSA recipients, a UCSF professor's exciting job at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games and what some member schools are doing to recruit and retain highly qualified faculty. Please note that on Jan. 5, 2009 AACP will go live with its first-ever Online Career Center. This job bank will house positions from all over the country and will replace the current *AACP Careers* publication. It will not only include available positions within the Academy, but career opportunities in multiple pharmaceutical industries. To learn more about the submission process, check out the current issues of *APN* and *AACP Careers*.

American Public Health Association (APHA) :

Washington, D.C., December 22, 2008 - The American Public Health Association (APHA) recently adopted 12 policies at its 136th Annual Meeting in San Diego. The newly adopted policies address a broad range of public health issues from Vitamin D deficiency and smoking in films to reproductive health and removal of wisdom teeth.

1. Following are descriptions of the measures approved by the Association's Governing Council during the Annual Meeting from Oct. 25-29, 2008. For the full 2008 policies, visit www.apha.org/advocacy/policy

20081-Vitamin D Deficiency and Insufficiency
20082- Smoking in feature films
20083- Safe legal abortion access
20084- Band on lead use in paints and consumer products
20085-Routine removal of wisdom teeth
20086-Patients rights to death with dignity
20087-Community Water Fluoridation
20088-Interprofessional Education
20089-Health Systems in developing countries
LB-08-01 Global food Crisis
LB-08-02 Legal Drinking Age
LB-08-03 Health Inequalities and Transportations

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)

The next AMSUS 115th Annual Meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri from November 15-20, 2009. All information regarding the 2009 Annual Meeting will be available in Spring 2009.

Officers who attended the AMSUS 114th Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, with lodging accommodations, you can now download the Tax Exempt Form (PDF) and may be able to obtain a refund or credit. Go to <http://www.amsus.org/convention/2008HotelTaxExemptForm.pdf>

To obtain a receipt of attendance at the AMSUS 114th Annual Meeting, call Customer Service at 1-866-229-3691 and request for a confirmation. Questions in obtaining the Pharmacy CEUs offered at the AMSUS conference, please contact LCDR Diem-Kieu Ngo at diem.ngo@fda.hhs.gov.

To become a member go to www.amsus.org/membership starting rate is from \$55/year to a full time life membership of \$1000.

Commissioned Officers Association (COA)

The PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) is sponsoring the COF Scholarship Program to assist dependent children or dependent spouses of active duty, retired, or deceased officers of the USPHS Commissioned Corps, who are members of COA. Here is a link to the application for the scholarship:
<http://www.phscof.org/documents/11.05.082009ScholarshipApplication.DOC>

The 2009 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held June 1-4, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. The 44th edition of this annual meeting will feature 3 1/2 days of general and tracked sessions. The theme for the 2009 Symposium is ***"Leading a Strong Public Health Workforce for a Healthy America."*** The conference will address a broad range of emerging trends, research break-throughs and critical issues in public health. Registration is not yet available for the conference. Here is a link to the conference website: <http://www.phscofevents.org/>

Drug Topics:
No Report

Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service - *"Protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the Nation"*

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