

ACCP Seeks to Expand Pharmacy Specialty Recognition

By: Roseann Gammal – MCPHS-Worcester

BCPS, BCNP, BCNSP, BCOP, BCPP, BCACP. Have you seen these credentials after some pharmacists' names? Ever wondered what that meant, and what they did to earn this credential? These pharmacists have demonstrated the highest level of expertise in a defined specialty area of pharmacy practice by taking a special examination. To retain this credential, board-certified pharmacists must be re-certified every seven years either by passing a recertification exam or completing a specific number and type of continuing education hours.

In a 2011 Position Statement published in *Pharmacotherapy*, ACCP affirms the professional value of board certification and the importance of its role in identifying competent, experienced practitioners with a particular clinical expertise. These individuals are well-positioned to engage in direct patient care and are recognized as leaders in their respective fields. As a result, these clinical pharmacists gain professional satisfaction, financial rewards, and career advancement.

There are currently six recognized specialties in which one may become certified through the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS), including *Ambulatory Care Pharmacy (BCACP)*, *Nuclear Pharmacy (BCNP)*, *Nutrition Support Pharmacy (BCNSP)*, *Oncology Pharmacy (BCOP)*, *Pharmacotherapy (BCPS)*, *Psychiatric Pharmacy (BCPP)*. BPS is considering *Critical Care* and *Pediatric Pharmacy Practice* specialties and has currently formed a Practice Analysis Task Force for each. ACCP is currently advocating for the addition of these and other specialty areas for certification.

Expanding the number of board certified pharmacy specialists holds significant implications for pharmacy. In fact, board certification may one day be a prerequisite for pharmacists involved with direct patient care. In recent memoranda to Deans, pharmacy practice department chairs, and residency program directors, ACCP President Dr. Lawrence Cohen reiterated ACCP's support of efforts to increase the number of board certified clinical pharmacists and the requirement of board certification for practitioners who supervise residents during direct patient care pharmacy practice experiences, faculty who teach students about therapeutics and drug therapy management, and practitioners who supervise students during direct patient care pharmacy practice experiences.

As you move forward with your career in clinical pharmacy, consider board certification and the doors it could open for you. For more information on ACCP's efforts to expand pharmacy specialty recognition, please visit: <http://www.accp.com/careers/specRecog.aspx>.

Making the Most of Your P1 School Year

By: Justin Arnall – University of North Carolina

Seizing resources and opportunities during your first year of pharmacy school (P1) may influence your future career path and provide you with the experiences and references to get there. Here are some tips to becoming an effective P1 student.

Your P1 year is a great time to start exploring the many career pathways in clinical pharmacy. Who has the career or skills you want someday? Find these potential mentors who share your common interests. You can research clinical pharmacists in your area using [ACCP's Membership Directory](#) which allows you to search members by location or interest areas. Do not hesitate to ask them for a mentoring meeting or shadow experience. Ask them, "What should I do while I am in school to attain a position such as yours?" or "What skills and experiences are needed to become an effective clinical pharmacist?".

Involvement in patient care and research develops your skills outside the classroom and influences your participation in these activities for the future. Getting involved with local or national organizations and initiatives educates students on the major issues facing the profession and opens the door for numerous networking and leadership opportunities. For more tips on getting involved visit ACCP's [Clinical Pharmacy Compass](#).

Q & A:

Q: How can I become an ACCP College of Pharmacy Student Liaison?

A: ACCP College of Pharmacy Student Liaisons are selected by the Faculty Liaison at each College of Pharmacy.

Student Liaisons actively work with the Faculty Liaison to provide information to student pharmacists about ACCP initiatives and the opportunities afforded to students in the association.

The Student Liaison serves as an integral link between ACCP and your campus.

If you are interested in serving your College of Pharmacy, please contact the Faculty Liaison on your respective campus. Click [here](#) for a directory of current liaisons.

Did You Know?

ACCP is offering a new program for first-, second-, or third-year pharmacy students aspiring to pursue post-graduate residency training called **Emerge from the Crowd: How to Become a Standout Residency Candidate**. The meeting will be held at The Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nevada, from April 28-29, 2012. This program will provide students pursuing post-graduate training opportunities the opportunity to enhance leadership skills and management abilities, as well as to network with distinguished clinical pharmacists and student pharmacists from across the nation. **The registration deadline is March 30, 2012.** For more information or to register click [here](#).

Clinical Case

An 8 year-old girl presents to the hospital with sudden onset of fever, irritability, and lethargy. Her vaccination history is unknown. Vital signs: Temp 40°C BP 90/60 mmHg, RR 32 bpm.

PMH: not significant

Allergies: NKDA

Current Medications: none

Physical Exam:

HEENT- photophobia; no papilledema noted.

Neuro- evidence of nuchal rigidity, lethargic and difficult to arouse. Positive Kernig sign and Brudzinksi test.

The patient is diagnosed with acute bacterial meningitis.

Test your knowledge:

1. What are the most common meningeal pathogens by age group in the US?
2. What are the classic signs and symptoms of bacterial meningitis?
3. The patient is admitted. What is the most appropriate empiric antibiotic therapy (including doses)?

Looking for answers? [Click here.](#)

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Questions/Comments?

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The Importance of Teaching as Part of a Residency Experience

By: Katie Cich – Butler University



Although only 7.6% of residents currently obtain a position within a college or university, the need for pharmacy practice faculty continues to increase nationwide and 83% of residents report precepting students within one year of program completion. Delivering education effectively takes time, practice, and continual feedback from experienced educators. For current practitioners, professional organizations offer training such as ACCP's Teaching and Learning Certificate Program or AACP's Education Scholar Program.

According to ASHP residency accreditation standards, completing a teaching certificate is not currently required, but is highly recommended. Residency programs continue to recognize the importance of developing their residents to become quality preceptors, lecturers, and mentors. Of the residency programs listed in the 2010 ASHP Residency Directory, 68% listed some form of formal or informal teaching opportunity. Many residency programs offer a teaching certificate program one can complete during residency training. These certificate programs expose residents to teaching philosophies, classroom assessment techniques, and current trends in pharmacy education.

Due to the non-standardization of teaching opportunities, residency candidates should carefully research the details of each program they are considering. Programs often include seminars on how to teach with topics such as writing test questions and instructional objectives, presenting, addressing issues of plagiarism, cheating and classroom civility, and cultivating the resident's personal teaching style. Residents may also be expected to prepare seminars, lead small group discussions, precept students, and develop a teaching portfolio.

Aistrope et al. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2011;31:65e-70e.
Romanelli et al. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*. 2001;58:896-8.

Clinical Pearl: Networking Begins Now!

By: Gary Dighe – Campbell University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Building your lifelong professional network begins now—while in pharmacy school! The connections you make now may influence your access to desired residency programs, fellowships, and career opportunities. Here are a few tips to guide you while in pharmacy school:

1) Get to know faculty members at your school or college of pharmacy.

Take time to speak with faculty members outside of class and share your professional interests and goals. The relationships you build with your faculty today will be the recommendation you need for future professional advancement.

2) Attend national and regional pharmacy conferences.

Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to key figures in pharmacy and ask questions. By socializing with attendees (including other students), you start to build your professional network of potential colleagues, employers, and collaborators.

3) Take advantage of [ACCP's student networking opportunities](#)

Students receive two free memberships to an ACCP "PRN" or "Practice Research Network" in specialty areas of pharmacy such as Critical Care or Ambulatory Care. The PRN business meetings at the ACCP Annual Meeting provide a welcoming environment for students to network with clinical specialists in many different practice settings..

4) Get connected on LinkedIn.com.

LinkedIn.com operates the world's largest professional network on the internet. With over 135 million members worldwide, LinkedIn is a great source to stay connected to all pharmacy-related networks, potential employers, and business colleagues.

5) Make a lasting impression!

Portray professionalism at all times and always strive to make a positive impression.