

ACCP Annual Meeting:

Join us in Pittsburgh for Fun, Education, and Friendly Competition

Summer is almost past, and the new academic year is upon us. ACCP offers unique opportunities for pharmacy students to network, get involved, and advance their career goals. Join us this fall at the College's Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 15–19, 2011.

Annual Meeting Highlights: The Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity for students to network with clinical pharmacy leaders and attend student-oriented programming. Attend a [Career Development Session](#), interact directly with more than 18 clinical pharmacy specialists at the [Career Path Roundtables](#), sharpen your interview skills at the Mock Interview Workshop hosted by the Education and Training PRN, and get an advance start on your postgraduate training search by attending the [Residency Forum](#).

Student Travel Awards: Because ACCP understands that travel to attend a national meeting can be costly, it offers the [Student Travel Award program](#), which provides travel stipends and/or complimentary meeting registrations to help defray the costs incurred by students when traveling to attend an ACCP national meeting. [Group registration discounts](#) are also available.

National Competition: The Clinical Pharmacy Challenge, ACCP's novel team competition for pharmacy students, returns this year with expanded opportunities for students to compete in virtual and live round competitions. The ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge is a team-based competition in which teams of three students compete against teams from other schools and colleges of pharmacy in a "quiz bowl"-type format. Only one team per institution may enter the competition. Institutions with branch campuses, distance satellites, and/or several interested teams are encouraged to conduct a [local competition](#).

Each competition round consists of three distinct segments: Trivia/Lightning, Clinical Case, and Jeopardy-style. The initial rounds of competition will be conducted online in September. The quarterfinal, semifinal, and final rounds will be held live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 15–17. Each team advancing to the quarterfinal round held at the ACCP Annual Meeting will receive three complimentary student full meeting registrations. Each team member will receive an ACCP gift certificate for \$125 and a certificate of recognition. Semifinal teams not advancing to the final round will receive a semifinal team plaque for display at their institution. The second-place team will receive a \$750 cash award and a commemorative team plaque. The winning team will receive a \$1500 cash award, and each team member will receive a commemorative plaque. The winning institution will be awarded a team trophy.

Students are not required to be members of ACCP to participate. Team registration may be submitted online and must be initiated by a current faculty member at the respective institution. Students interested in forming a team should contact their ACCP [faculty liaison](#). If no ACCP Faculty Liaison has been identified, any faculty member from the institution may initiate the registration process.

The deadline to complete team registration and confirm eligibility is September 6, 2011. For additional information regarding the ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge, [click here](#).

ACCP is committed to the growth and development of its student members. Don't miss your opportunity to join us in Pittsburgh to learn more about clinical pharmacy and advance your career goals.

ACCP Online CV Review Service Is NOW OPEN!

Now through April 1, 2012, student and postgraduate trainee members of ACCP can submit their curriculum vitae online and have it reviewed by an ACCP member.

[Click here](#) to visit the ACCP student Web site. Under the title **ACCP Online CV Review Service**, select "Submit your CV for review"; then, upload your CV as a Microsoft Word Document. You should receive feedback from your reviewer within 15 business days.



Q & A:

By Rachael Moore,
University of Southern Nevada

Q: How can I find a pharmacy mentor, and why is it important?

A: For the student, a mentor is a resource with whom to discuss possible career paths and opportunities; a mentor helps the student build skill sets for clinical practice and supports a student's transition to post-graduate training and beyond. To find a mentor:

- Decide what skills you would like to develop
- Consider characteristics you would like a mentor to possess, and identify someone you admires and who shares career interests and someone you admire as a practitioner.
- Sit down and talk with your possible mentor. Can you learn from him/her? Do you value his/her insight? If so, then ask your candidate to be your mentor.

Have questions/comments?
E-mail stunews@accp.com

Did You Know?

ACCP offers Practice and Research Networks (PRNs) for students to become involved with. During the 2011 ACCP Annual Meeting, each PRN will have a business meeting. These will take place on either October 17 or 18 in the evening. Students who attend the Annual Meeting are encouraged to attend at least one PRN business meeting of their choice.

By attending these meetings, students are exposed to excellent networking opportunities with seasoned professionals who share similar interests; moreover, students have opportunities to learn from specific programming within the PRN. Students interested in residency can speak to the PRN members for programs that are strong within their given specialty. Finally, the meetings are fun! Food and drinks are often provided.

Visit for more information:
<http://www.accp.com/about/prns.aspx>

Calendar Dates:

September 2011:

- **2:** ACCP Annual Meeting Student Travel Awards application deadline
- **6:** ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge team registration deadline
- **9:** ACCP Annual Meeting early registration deadline
- **8–16:** ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge Online Rounds

October 2011:

- American Pharmacists Month
- **15–19:** ACCP Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA
- **19:** ASHP Midyear Meeting early registration deadline

December 2011:

- **4–8:** ASHP Midyear meeting in New Orleans, LA

2010–2011 ACCP StuNet National Advisory Committee Members:

Stephanie Seaton, Chair
Kayley Lyons, Vice Chair
Alex Flannery, Secretary
Members-at-Large:
Christopher Adams
Ryan Birk
Rena Lettsome
Rachael Moore
Brandon Mottice
Tiffany Pon
Melanie Siv

ACCP Staff Liaison:
Michelle Kucera

Questions/Comments?
E-mail stunews@accp.com

Clinical Pearl: Patient Communication Skills

By Rena Lettsome, University of Minnesota

Patient care goes beyond the textbook. Communication skills are arguably the most important proficiency a pharmacist can possess to provide the best care for patients.

Here are a few tips for successful patient interactions:

- 1) Maintain appropriate body language.**
Eye contact is one of the most basic, easy ways to let your patient know that you are focused on and care about tending to their needs. Eye contact establishes basic trust and provides a good start to the interaction. Smiling always goes a long way, too; don't skimp on it!
- 2) Know your patient.**
How well do they speak English? Are they literate? Do they have any learning disabilities? These questions are important to make sure the patient is receiving proper information and care.
- 3) Avoid heavy medical terminology.**
Patients have not sat through the same grueling pharmacy courses as you. As a result, some of the terms you have grown accustomed to using may be lost on the typical patient. Be sure to use terms that convey the message in the most patient-friendly manner possible.
- 4) Use your time wisely.**
Many of the patients you encounter may have limited time to sit and chat with you about their medications. Assess what the patient already knows, and use this knowledge to tailor your conversation to important, key pieces of information the patient will need to get the best possible outcome.
- 5) Practice, Practice, Practice.**
Use your internship and pharmacy practice experiences to interact with patients. Practicing in these types of settings under the supervision of a preceptor or mentor will provide you with feedback and help better your skills over time.



Professional Tidbit: Patient Counseling – Back to the Basics

By Melissa Lo, ACCP Student Member Contributor

An effective patient counseling session may provide essential information to patients and health care professionals that may have been missed during the shuffle through the health care system. Although it may not be as immediately apparent, a patient counseling session also helps establish a relationship with the patient and contributes to the image of the pharmacy profession as a patient care provider.

Here is a checklist to guide you during the counseling session:

Pertinent patient information

1. Allergies/adverse drug effects
2. Other medical conditions
3. Other medications (including over-the-counter [OTC] and herbal products)
4. Pregnancy status/breastfeeding, if applicable

"3 Prime Questions" – Adapted from the Indian Health Service (IHS)

1. What did the doctor tell you this medication is for?
2. How did the doctor tell you to take it?
 - a. Directions
 - b. Storage
 - c. Drugs/foods to avoid when taking the medication
 - d. What to do when missed
3. What did the doctor tell you to expect?
 - a. Expected effects (may include duration)
 - b. Adverse/side effects
 - c. What to do if you encounter certain side effects (especially life-threatening effects)

Tips for effective patient communication:

- Remember that communication is a two-way process.
- Listen to the patients.
- Assess their understanding and health literacy through:
 - Asking open-ended questions

Having patients summarize to you what you have told them

