

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary, Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) appreciates the opportunity to provide the following statement to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) related to the recent changes to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ACCP strongly urges the appointment of an expert clinical pharmacist as a voting member of CDC's ACIP.

ACCP is a professional society representing more than 16,000 clinical pharmacy practitioners, scientists, educators, administrators, students, residents and fellows committed to excellence in clinical pharmacy. The College's mission is to improve human health. This mission relies on the foundation of clinical pharmacy – namely, the science and practice of rational medication use, including vaccines. ACCP is one of the very few health professions organizations that accepts no pharmaceutical industry grants, sponsorships, or other monetary support. Therefore, we remain free of conflict of interest in this regard.

ACCP is the preeminent organization representing clinical pharmacists and the patients for whom they provide care. Our members are experts in complex medications and medication regimens that are integral to modern healthcare. Importantly, many clinical pharmacists conduct clinical/translational research in infectious diseases/immunology and possess expertise in evaluating medical evidence. These clinical scientists bring both the patient care practice and research experience necessary to develop rational vaccine recommendations.

Clinical pharmacists also work daily with physicians, physician trainees, patients, and other health professionals to ensure that medications are prescribed, dosed, and utilized safely and effectively to achieve the best clinical outcomes.

ACCP firmly believes that patients will benefit from the appointment of an expert clinical pharmacist to CDC's ACIP. Clinical pharmacists play a critical role in establishing scientific evidence on vaccines through the development of clinical trials to evaluate vaccine efficacy, safety, and optimal dosing strategies, and contribute directly to the development of vaccine protocols and public health recommendations. Many have been certified by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties as board certified Infectious Diseases Pharmacists. They provide vital expertise in tracking adverse reactions and

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contributing to post-marketing vaccine surveillance, ensuring immunizations remain safe and effective, and applying evidence-based guidance to patient care.¹

As team-based healthcare professionals who help optimize medication therapy for complex patients in varied settings, clinical pharmacists bring a unique and vital perspective to national immunization policymaking. They serve as frontline healthcare professionals with expertise in pharmacology, population health, and vaccine technology and use. Clinical pharmacists are educated and trained to effectively manage the drug *and* biologic needs of patients, including providing advice to patients, managing vaccine contraindications, and participating in outbreak response efforts. Their integration into patient care teams in ambulatory, inpatient, and community-based settings serves as a vital link between public health policy and real-world implementation. Their contributions to interprofessional healthcare teams are proven to enhance overall team effectiveness.²

ACCP believes the inclusion of a clinical pharmacist in the ACIP voting membership will strengthen the scientific integrity, operational insight, and patient-centered focus of the committee's recommendations. We stand ready to participate in the nominations process by identifying qualified clinical pharmacy scientists with the expertise, leadership, and commitment to public health that ACIP demands.

If we can provide additional information or support for ACIP's mission, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Michael S. Maddux, Pharm.D., FCCP, Executive Director

¹ Bluml BM, Brock KA, Doucette WR, et al. Effect of an Innovative Immunization Practice Model to Improve Population Health: Results of the Project IMPACT Immunizations Scaled Demonstration. *Innov Pharm.* 2023;14(2):doi:10.24926/lip.v14i2.5454

² Funk KA, Pestka DL, Roth McClurg MT, Carroll JK, Sorensen TD. Primary Care Providers Believe That Comprehensive Medication Management Improves Their Work-Life. *J Am Board Fam Med.* 2019 Jul-Aug;32(4):462-473. doi:10.3122/jabfm.2019.04.180376. PMID: 31300566.