

## BPS Approves New Specialties in Critical Care and Pediatric Pharmacy

Cara Milburn – West Virginia University School of Pharmacy

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) announced the approval of the seventh and eighth BPS specialties on April 16, 2013. The seventh specialty will be critical care pharmacy, and the eighth specialty will be pediatric pharmacy. The final review of the petitions for these two new specialties was held during the BPS Board Meeting on April 12, 2013. ACCP, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) worked together to submit the petition to recognize critical care pharmacy as a specialty. ACCP, APhA, ASHP, and the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group worked together to submit the petition for pediatric pharmacy.

Joseph Saseen, Pharm.D., FCCP, FASHP, FNLA, BCPS, CLS, the 2013 chair of the BPS Board of Directors and a professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, stated, "Pharmacy specialists who care for pediatric and critical care patients are entrusted with a great deal of specialized clinical responsibilities within these patient populations. The evidence demonstrating the overall benefits of these two pharmacy specialties is very strong, so we are confident that patient care will continue to be further enhanced by being able to recognize these pharmacists as specialists."

In the next step of the process, BPS will form a specialty council for each new specialty. The call for nominations for these specialty councils began on May 3, 2013, and will continue until August 2, 2013. Nine members will be appointed to each specialty council by September 15, 2013. The responsibilities of each specialty council will include creating the certification examination and the eligibility criteria for pharmacists to take the exam. Right now, the Board plans to have the new specialty examinations available for administration in 2015.

BPS currently offers six other specialty examinations: nuclear pharmacy, nutrition support pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, psychiatric pharmacy, oncology pharmacy, and ambulatory care pharmacy. The examinations will be given at locations across the country and the world between September 19, 2013, and October 5, 2013. More information about registration for BPS certification examinations can be found at [www.bpsweb.org/](http://www.bpsweb.org/).

### Federal Pharmacy Offers Unique Clinical Opportunities

**Ensign Quinn Bott – Northeastern University School of Pharmacy** Practicing clinical pharmacy in the federal system provides excellent opportunities to use your knowledge as a pharmacist to the fullest, all the while serving unique and underserved patients. Federal pharmacists employ powerful electronic health records technology to quickly obtain detailed information about their patients. Federal pharmacists are privileged to act on this information to provide care in numerous ways, from administering immunizations to managing the pharmacotherapy of various disease states independently. Working as part of an interdisciplinary team is always emphasized.

Loan repayment programs are available through federal pharmacy programs, particularly if you are willing to work in underserved areas. In addition, the wages and benefits offered are very competitive. You can enjoy the freedom that comes from the ability to practice in any state with one license, making relocating easy. There are also many opportunities for continuing education and professional development – it's an expectation!

Several practice options are available, such as working for the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs) in ambulatory care or health-system pharmacy, joining the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps as a pharmacy officer, or practicing pharmacy in the health corps of one of the uniformed services like the Army, Navy, or Air Force. Other government agencies also employ pharmacists as civilian servants.

Many agencies offer student internship programs as well as postgraduate residency opportunities. Often, fewer students apply for these residencies because the applications may require more and have earlier deadlines than those for other residency programs. Consider taking some time to research these options and explore the many opportunities in federal pharmacy today.

## Calendar Dates

### June

14 – 2013-2014 National Student Network Advisory Committee application deadline

### September

3 – ACCP Clinical Challenge registration deadline

5 – Clinical Challenge online round 1 (all teams)

9 – Clinical Challenge online round 2 (top 64 teams)

11 – Clinical Challenge online round 3 (top 32 teams)

13 – Clinical Challenge online round 4 (top 16 teams)

16 – Clinical Challenge quarterfinal teams announced

### October

12-16 – 2013 ACCP Annual Meeting

12 – Clinical Challenge quarterfinal round at ACCP Annual Meeting

13 – Clinical Challenge semifinal round

14 – Clinical Challenge final round

### December

8-12 – ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

## Q & A:

**Q:** How can I get more involved with ACCP?

**A:** ACCP offers leadership opportunities to work with students across the country through the **National Student Network Advisory Committee**. ACCP encourages student members who wish to enhance their leadership skills, network with their colleagues from across the country, and interact with clinical pharmacy leaders to apply for this committee.

Leadership positions include:

- Chair (1-year term)
- Vice Chair (2-year term; assumes chair position during the second year)
- Secretary (1-year term)
- Member-at-Large (1-year term)

The committee meets in person at the ACCP Annual Meeting in October and frequently communicates by e-mail and conference calls throughout the year to complete the assigned charges from ACCP's Board of Regents. **Application Deadline: June 14.**

Click [here](#) for more information about applying for appointment to the National Student Network Advisory Committee!

### 2012-2013 ACCP National Student Network Advisory Committee:

Roseann Gammal – Chair  
Whitney Davis – Vice Chair  
Andrew Himself – Secretary

#### Members-at-Large:

Kevin Chung  
Norman Fenn  
Jared Mannen  
Cara Milburn  
Diwura Owlabi  
Christine Puschak  
Courtney Watts  
Kimberly Won

#### ACCP Staff Liaison:

Michelle Kucera, Pharm.D., BCPS

#### Questions/Comments?

E-mail [stunews@accp.com](mailto:stunews@accp.com)

## Professional Tidbit: Networking to Success

Lillian Lee – University of Southern California School of Pharmacy

Now, more than ever, it is critical that student pharmacists learn, develop, and perfect the skill of networking to succeed in their careers. Networking is as much about who knows you as about whom you know. To leave a positive, lasting impression, we must invest time and effort in building meaningful relationships through multiple interactions. For example, when meeting someone at a networking event:

1. **Take the first step.** Start a conversation with easy questions, and listen carefully to their replies.
2. **Share your passion.** You want to give people something to remember you by. Communicating your enthusiasm and passion in a story is an excellent way to make a lasting impression.
3. **Don't hijack conversations.** Listening is a key skill in successful networking. Don't just talk, but also listen and follow the flow of the conversation. The goal is to build a free-flowing, relaxed, personable conversation.
4. **Smile.** Smiling releases endorphins, which will put you at ease in a nervous situation. It will also double as a warm invitation for others to approach you and initiate a conversation.
5. **Follow up.** Ask for the best way to keep in touch. Follow up by e-mail, LinkedIn, or telephone and reference a meaningful moment in your conversation so that you will be remembered. Next time you see them, reintroduce yourself and remind them of your first encounter. The worst thing to do is to ask someone if they remember you—it puts the person in an uncomfortable position.

Finally, take the idea of networking beyond just networking events. It is important to network with everyone, including your classmates and faculty. Pharmacy is a small world, and it is likely that someone in your network will know someone else who can help you accomplish your career goals. So, take the initiative to talk to people, because you never know where the connections you make will take you.

## Clinical Spotlight:

### Internal Medicine/Academia – Jon P. Wietholter, Pharm.D., BCPS

#### What educational steps did you take to get to where you are today?

Throughout my education at the University of Pittsburgh, I was 100% certain that clinical pharmacy was the only avenue for me, so I immediately went the PGY1 residency route after graduation. I was fortunate to match at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, NC (now Vidant Health). On residency completion, I accepted a position as an internal medicine shared faculty member. My clinical responsibilities were at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, WV, and my faculty responsibilities were at West Virginia University (WVU). After 4 years, I made the move to Morgantown, WV, to continue working for WVU and transitioned my clinical practice to Ruby Memorial Hospital.

#### How would you describe your practice site?

My current clinical practice is with the Medicine 3 service at Ruby Memorial Hospital. We are one of five internal medicine services at the hospital and typically have 15–20 patients on service ranging from 21-year-old patients with endocarditis to 99-year-old patients with dementia.

#### How would you describe your typical workday?

Each workday is a little different, but every day starts with my clinical responsibilities. Patient care rounds typically last from 9:30 a.m. to noon, so I arrive early enough to pre-round on my service and prepare a pharmaceutical care plan for each patient for that day. Afternoons typically consist of lecture preparation/refinement, research, patient reviews, or required meetings for either the hospital or the university. In addition, I precept students and PGY1/PGY2 residents in internal medicine and in international medicine in South Africa. When I have students or residents, afternoons also include topic discussions and a review of the patients for that day.

#### What strategies do you employ to stay up to date in your field?

Being a faculty member with significant teaching responsibilities in the pharmacotherapeutics course sequence definitely aids in the need and desire to stay on top of the literature. Reviewing the pertinent journals (e.g., *Pharmacotherapy*, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacists*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*) is a necessity. In addition, e-mail alerts on recent updates or new literature allow me to sort through the information I must review to stay current. Finally, attending national meetings, when possible, allows me opportunities to hear what is changing in the world of clinical pharmacy.

#### How has ACCP been important in your professional development?

ACCP provides an excellent opportunity for pharmacists who are clinically based to share their opinions, ideas, and research with a national (and international) audience. Being a member of ACCP allows me the opportunity to stay in tune with where clinical pharmacy is heading and what is currently happening, which has definitely aided in my professional development.