

## Northeastern University Wins 2012 ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge

Whitney Davis – University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy



Congratulations to Matthew Lord, Adam MacLasco, Libbi Rice, and the Northeastern University Bouvé College of Health Sciences School of Pharmacy, winners of the [2012 ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge](#)! The final round against Purdue University College of Pharmacy was dynamic. After the Trivia Lightning Round, Purdue emerged on top, but Northeastern turned the tables during the Clinical Case and clinched the title with an outstanding performance in the Jeopardy round. Immediately after the victory, all team members were elated to have gone so far in the competition. Make sure to participate in your local Clinical Pharmacy Challenge competition in 2013!

## ACCP Annual Meeting Recap

Courtney S. Watts – Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy

In October, student pharmacists from across the country gathered in Hollywood, Florida, for the 2012 ACCP Annual Meeting. Students attended this year's meeting in record-breaking numbers and joined clinical pharmacists, residents, fellows, and faculty members for networking, exciting student-oriented programming, continuing education, and a great time!

Student programming started strong with a "Residency Road Map" session that featured a panel of current residents and residency directors discussing tips on preparing for postgraduate training, navigating the application process, interviewing, and transitioning into the role of a new resident. A student reception followed this event, allowing students from various schools of pharmacy to network. The Clinical Pharmacy Career Path Roundtable discussion provided students the opportunity to interact directly with clinical pharmacists in various specialty practice areas.

A residency and fellowship forum provided attendees the opportunity to get a head start on their post-graduate training program search. Students were encouraged to attend various [Practice and Research Network \(PRN\)](#) business meetings to network with leaders in the various fields, and the Education and Training PRN provided mock interviews to assist student attendees in honing their interviewing skills. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend next year's Annual Meeting, October 13–16, 2013, in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

## Interviewing: Tips for Success

Erin K. McCreary – Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy

As we move from the life of a student pharmacist into the world of practice, we will face many interviews along the way. Here are a few tips to help simplify the process:

1. **Dress for success:** Lay out your outfit the night before to save time and keep you calm, collected, and confident. When choosing your outfit, avoid obvious distractions to keep the focus on you, not your clothing.
2. **Smile:** Body language is crucial. Maintain good posture, make eye contact, and, above all else, smile!
3. **Know your CV:** Be able to elaborate on your accomplishments and describe the work you put into them.
4. **Silence is golden:** Listening is a crucial skill people often lack in interviews. Make sure you completely understand the question, and answer it directly.
5. **Know your facts:** Make sure to thoroughly research organizations before your interview. Have your questions ready, not only to show them you're interested but also to make sure they meet *your* expectations.
6. **Practice makes perfect:** Before any interview, practice with a close friend or family member. Have them ask you out-of-the-box questions to stimulate your brain and prepare you for anything.
7. **Make your point:** When asked a question, maintain eye contact and succinctly *answer what they asked you*. Slowly pan the rest of the panel while elaborating, and end by summarizing your ultimate point.
8. **Be you:** Don't worry with fancy words—people can see through them. Passion is obvious when it's genuine.
9. **Have your "Big 10":** Pick 10 things in your life, and know them like the back of your hand. Be intimate with these things, and when asked a tricky question, adapt them to fit the question at hand.

## Q & A:

**Q:** With all the options available, how do I decide which residency program is right for me?

**A:** Deciding on a residency program is a very personalized process. Candidates must first consider their career goals and then determine which programs will best help them achieve those goals. Candidates must consider geographic location, unique program attributes, overall program quality, and availability of PGY2 positions to ensure the program will be a good fit.

If you are unsure what career path you would like to pursue, check out [Career Pathways](#) on ACCP's Web site. For more information about residencies and the application process, use ACCP's [Clinical Compass](#). Finally, be sure to take advantage of networking opportunities such as ACCP's Residency Forum or ASHP Midyear to talk with current residents and residency program directors.

**ACCP**

## Did You Know...

**ACCP will be hosting a booth at the ASHP Midyear Expo – Booth #2029.**

Stop by to learn more about the many programs and services offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and **register to win an iPad**, courtesy of ACCP!

While you're there, ask for your **free copy of ACCP's 2013 Directory of Residencies, Fellowships, and Graduate Programs**, while supplies last.

## Clinical Case

A 50-year-old man, having been hospitalized for several weeks in the ICU, has required prolonged courses of antibiotics. He is currently experiencing severe diarrhea with a temperature of 102°F. His stool cultures are positive for *Clostridium difficile* toxin.

### Pertinent laboratory values:

Na<sup>+</sup>: 138 mEq/L; Cl<sup>-</sup>: 115 mEq/L  
HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>: 15 mEq/L; pH: 7.32  
Pco<sub>2</sub>: 30 mm Hg

### Test your knowledge:

1. Is this patient's pH acidotic or alkalotic?
2. Does this patient's Pco<sub>2</sub> indicate respiratory acidosis or alkalosis?
3. Does this patient's HCO<sub>3</sub> indicate metabolic acidosis or alkalosis?
4. Does this patient have an increased anion gap?
5. What is the overall acid-base disturbance?
6. What is the likely cause of this patient's acid-base disturbance?
7. What agents are available for the treatment of *C. difficile* infections?

Looking for answers? [click here](#)

### 2012–2013

#### ACCP National Student Network Advisory Committee:

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

#### Members-at-Large:

Kevin Chung  
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Christine Puschak  
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#### ACCP Staff Liaison:

Michelle Kucera, Pharm.D., BCPS

#### Questions/Comments?

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## PhORCAS: The New Way to Apply for Residency

Norm Fenn – University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

This year, there is a new method for applying to residency. It's called PhORCAS: Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service. This new service, designed to facilitate the application process for students, programs, and references, will be initiated during the 2013 residency application period.

The system will work in ways similar to PharmCAS, the prepharmacy student application program. Students will upload all of their information into this program and be able to designate the residency program(s) they wish to apply to. The application itself is pretty straightforward. The program asks for your demographics, whether you're applying for a PGY1 or PGY2 program, your education information, and so forth. You will be required to upload your letter of intent or personal statement, CV/resume, and supplemental application material as required. Your references can fill out a template reference form and also submit customized letters to PhORCAS. You will be able to customize your application for each program, if you wish. You can also register for the Match directly through PhORCAS. Finally, you will be able to track the progress of everything electronically, in real time.

The cost of this service is \$75 for the first four applications and \$25 for each subsequent application. This price was determined using a student survey to assess the costs associated with applying to residency programs in previous years.

Some benefits of this program include the ability to apply for several programs through one central system, to submit instant paperless application(s) online, and to track your application(s) electronically. If you aren't matched initially, all of your materials will become available for the post-Match period. There are benefits for the residency programs and your references, as well!

Some of the cons of this program: the potential costs compared with traditional applications may be higher than the traditional application process for some individuals. In addition, not all residency programs are taking part in PhORCAS, which means some residency programs will still require the paper submission. This is also a new program, so there could be some difficulties along the way.

Overall, this is a great way to simplify the challenging process of applying to residency. Be sure to get your application(s) ready early in case you encounter any problems, and good luck to everyone! For more information or to view tutorial videos, visit <http://www.ashp.org/phorcass>.

## Clinical Spotlight: Critical Care – John M. Allen, Pharm.D., BCPS

### How would you describe your practice site?

I practice in the Surgical-Trauma Intensive Care Unit at the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile, Alabama. We are the only level 1 trauma center in Southern Alabama or Mississippi, so we often get very sick patients transferred from other parts of the region. The trauma service typically follows 10–16 patients per day. The trauma team is multidisciplinary and includes physicians, nurse practitioners, students, and pharmacists. One of the perks of my job is the opportunity to interact with various members of the health care team. I provide education to them about drug therapy, but I also learn so much from them regarding various aspects of their professions.

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

During pharmacy school at Florida A&M University, I was an active member of several student organizations. This involvement prepared me for leadership and the pursuit of residency training. During my last year of pharmacy school, I was an investigator on a research project that helped introduce me to the importance of pharmacist-initiated research. I graduated from Florida A&M University in May 2009 with my Pharm.D. degree. I then completed both my PGY1 and PGY2 critical care residencies at Tampa General Hospital under the guidance of Minh-Tri Duong, Pharm.D., and Earnest Alexander, Pharm.D., FCCM, respectively. During my PGY1 residency, I became interested in academia and completed a Teaching Certificate Program with the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. After completing postgraduate training, I joined the faculty of the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy.

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

ACCP has been instrumental in my professional development. I had the privilege of serving on the National Residency Advisory Committee in 2010–2011. The experience allowed me to work with other committee members on issues important to pharmacy residents. Currently, I serve on the Communications Committee of the Critical Care PRN. The opportunities to network with many critical care practitioners in the Critical Care PRN and at the Annual Meeting have also been very important in my professional development.

Please visit the [Student Newsletter link](#) on the ACCP Web site for Dr. Allen's full interview. To view information on other clinical practice areas check the [Career Pathways](#) section of the Web site.