

UPDATE

Assuring Quality Pharmacy Education

ACPE Receives CHEA Recognition

At its April 2004 meeting, the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) endorsed the recommendation of its Committee on Recognition (COR) to include the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) as one of the specialized accrediting bodies meeting its recognition standards. This action by the CHEA Board of Directors concluded a year-long process in which ACPE submitted a detailed application that was initially reviewed by the COR, answered additional background and clarifying information to COR, welcomed an observer to our June 2003 meeting, and appeared before the COR on two occasions to address and answer questions.

CHEA was established by the presidents of American universities and colleges "to strengthen higher education through strengthened accreditation of higher education institutions." CHEA's mission statement notes that it will promote "academic quality through formal recognition of higher education accreditation bodies and will coordinate and work to advance self-regulation through accreditation." Ensuring fairness in accreditation review and maintaining institutional autonomy are key elements of CHEA's philosophy.

In its application for CHEA recognition, ACPE was asked to provide detailed responses to a number of questions to explain

how ACPE advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages purposeful change and needed improvement, employs appropriate and fair procedures in decision-making, and continually reassesses its accreditation practices.

ACPE was gratified that four of its procedures were highlighted by the CHEA site visitor to our June 2003 Board meeting as being "best practices that appear to contribute to accuracy, consistency, and fairness." These best practices are the inclusion of a staff member on each site visit, the inclusion of a member of the ACPE Board of Directors on each site visit, the six-month (pre-term) orientation of each new member of the ACPE Board of Directors, and the presence of legal counsel during the entire meeting of the ACPE Board of Directors.

CHEA granted a ten-year term of recognition to ACPE (2014), with an interim report required during year five (2009). Additionally, ACPE is reviewed and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) on a five-year review cycle. Reviews by these external bodies, as well as ACPE's internal efforts, ensure ACPE's accreditation policies and procedures are continually updated and our standards are consistently applied in our quest to ensure quality in pharmacy education.

Thank you for your dedication and service to ACPE and the profession of pharmacy!

Outgoing ACPE Board Members include (L to R): John R. Johannes (appointed by the American Council on Education), Fran Johannes, Dorothy Moose, Wm. Whitaker Moose (appointed by National Association of Boards of Pharmacy), Mary Anne Koda-Kimble (appointed by American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy), Don Kimble, Dennis K. Helling (appointed by American Pharmacists Association).





Peter H. Vlases, Pharm.D., BCPS
Executive Director

High Touch AND High Tech...

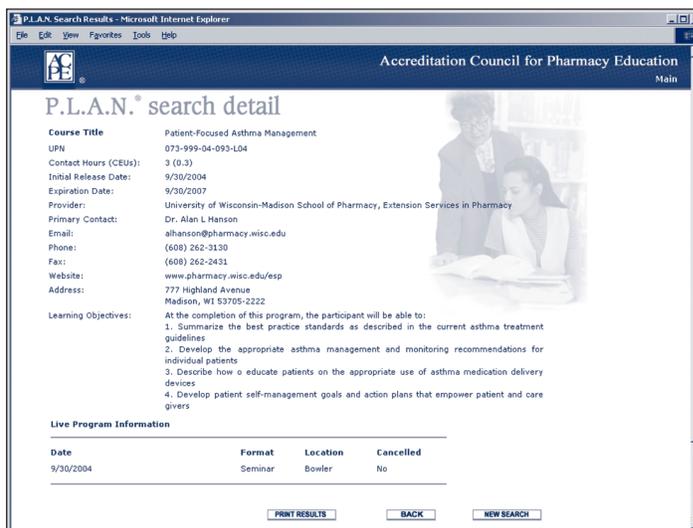
In previous issues of *ACPE Update*, I have emphasized human aspects of ACPE in this column. For example, I've noted ACPE's ongoing and strong relationships with its founding and sponsoring organizations (AACP, APhA and NABP) and efforts of the ACPE Board and Staff to listen to our constituents' ideas and respond in a proactive, quality-based manner through our strategic planning process. Similarly, profiles of ACPE's program directors are included in this issue to continue to "put a face on the effort." In this column, I'd like to focus on the technology investment that ACPE has made in the past year and the benefits to be derived. The ACPE web site has been upgraded, both cosmetically and functionally, to better serve our constituencies (Figure 1). Easier navigation, access to staff email addresses and a new topic search function facilitate rapid retrieval of needed accreditation information or documents. The ability to file complaints concerning the quality of professional degree programs or continuing education providers is enhanced through easy review of our

policy and electronic submission. The Pharmacist Learning Assistance Network (P.L.A.N.®) database, which carries listings (title, learning objectives, number of CEUs offered, etc.) and contact information for all continuing education offerings (i.e., live, journal, Internet, etc.) available to external audiences within 30 days of availability, has been upgraded to enhance its search capabilities and other functions. The results of a P.L.A.N.® search are depicted (Figure 2). Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are encouraged to use P.L.A.N.® to assist their identifying continuing education programs of interest. The Program Description Form (PDF) submission web tool, through which P.L.A.N.® and other needed accreditation information are provided to ACPE by continuing education providers, has been redesigned and functionally enhanced. As of September 1, 2004, ACPE only accepts the required PDF documents through the web tool. Information system stability, virus-protection and disaster recovery have all been improved. ACPE is actively exploring further technology enhancements to better serve our mission, *assuring quality pharmacy education*. The "high tech" supports and makes possible more and better "high touch."

Figure 1



Figure 2



policy and electronic submission. The Pharmacist Learning Assistance Network (P.L.A.N.®) database, which carries listings (title, learning objectives, number of CEUs offered, etc.) and contact information for all continuing education offerings (i.e., live, journal, Internet, etc.) available to external audiences within 30 days of availability, has been upgraded to enhance its search capabilities and other functions. The results of a P.L.A.N.® search are depicted (Figure 2). Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are encouraged to use P.L.A.N.® to assist their identifying continuing education programs of interest. The Program Description Form (PDF) submission web tool, through which P.L.A.N.® and other needed accreditation information are provided to ACPE by continuing education providers, has been redesigned and functionally enhanced. As of September 1, 2004, ACPE only accepts the required PDF documents through the web tool. Information system stability, virus-protection and disaster recovery have all been improved. ACPE is actively exploring further technology enhancements to better serve our mission, *assuring quality pharmacy education*. The "high tech" supports and makes possible more and better "high touch."

ACPE UPCOMING EVENTS

Certificate Program Workshop

ACPE office, Chicago, Illinois
September 9-10

Continuing Pharmacy Education Provider Accreditation Workshops

ACPE office, Chicago, Illinois
September 13-14
October 7-8
November 8-9

Strategic Planning Meeting (Board and Staff)

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
October 1-2

Executive Committee Meeting

ACPE Office, Chicago, Illinois
December 14-15

Board of Directors Meeting

San Antonio, Texas
January 12-16, 2005

Board of Directors Meeting

ACPE Office, Chicago, Illinois
June 22-26, 2005

11th Conference on Continuing Pharmacy Education

Chicago, Illinois
September 29-October 2, 2005

Board of Directors Meeting

Charleston, South Carolina
January 11-15, 2006

Meet the Program Directors



Jeffrey W. Wadelin is presently Associate Executive Director and Director, Professional Degree Program Accreditation, for the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). He received a B.S. in Pharmacy from Ohio Northern University in 1981, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Pharmaceutical Administration from The Ohio State University in 1982 and 1986, respectively. He is a licensed pharmacist in the State of Ohio. Dr. Wadelin has been in his present position at ACPE since July 1989. Prior to joining ACPE, he was Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration at The University of Toledo College of Pharmacy, receiving his appointment in March 1985. Dr. Wadelin's current responsibilities include management of ACPE's activities in the area of accreditation of professional degree programs offered by Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy, and involvement with other elements of ACPE's quality assurance activities. Specifically, he assigns evaluation teams, leads the critical issue team assigned to ACPE's strategic goals with respect to professional degree program accreditation, leads comprehensive and focused on-site evaluations (along with other ACPE staff), does consultations at colleges and schools, and makes presentations on ACPE related matters, including how to be a good evaluation team member and what to expect in an upcoming on-site evaluation. Dr. Wadelin is active in numerous national professional associations in pharmacy as well as higher and adult/continuing professional education.

Jeff's thoughts:

"ACPE's fundamental mission is assuring quality in pharmacy education. While we are being confronted with numerous and unprecedented challenges, it is my belief that the academic pharmacy enterprise today is producing a greater number of better-educated pharmacists that are more prepared to practice collaboratively to improve patient care than ever before. We have not yet reached our goal; the pursuit of excellence needs to be ongoing. Working together, we can achieve this end."

On a personal note...

Dr. Wadelin and his wife, Sharon, live in Bartlett, IL, a western suburb of Chicago. They have three sons, ages 21, 18, and 10, who keep them quite busy with an array of educational, social, and athletic activities.



Dimitra V. Travlos, PharmD, BCPS is Assistant Executive Director and Director, Continuing Pharmacy Education Provider Accreditation for the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). Dimitra has worked at ACPE since 1998 and has been a program director since 2001. Her responsibilities include:

- administration of evaluative processes in continuing education,
- provision of staff support and consultative guidance on activities and issues relating to the continuing education providers and certificate programs,
- provision of educational support for the ACPE *Criteria for Quality and Interpretive Guidelines* and the *Standards and Quality Assurance Procedures for ACPE-Accredited Providers of Continuing Pharmacy*

Education Offering Certificate Programs in Pharmacy, and

- assurance of a quality assurance process of continuing pharmacy education and certificate programs in pharmacy.

Prior to joining ACPE, Dimitra was Associate Professor in the Division of Pharmacy Practice at St. Louis College of Pharmacy in St. Louis, Missouri. Dimitra has experience in the development and implementation of an ability-based curriculum, new teaching strategies, and an on-line electronic student portfolio system. Her interests focus on program assessment and individual performance assessment as it relates to educational outcomes. Dimitra received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy, completed a clinical residency and fellowship in Organ Transplantation/Nephrology at the University of Illinois Hospital, and is board certified in the area of Pharmacotherapy.

Dimitra's thoughts of her work:

"It is exciting to work in an area where there is involvement with every aspect of the pharmacy profession. I enjoy working closely with the continuing education providers. They are all truly unique. One element the providers have in common is they strive to offer the best continuing pharmacy education to pharmacists and other health care professionals. Yet, today, in the name of quality improvement, there exists a demand for the pharmacy profession, as well as other health care disciplines, to enhance its continuing education; to include multiple and innovative teaching strategies so principles learned are retained and applied to one's practice and in turn hopefully improve patient outcomes. Together with the ACPE-accredited providers and the pharmacy profession, we trust we can achieve this charge."

On a personal note...

Dimitra and her husband Jerry, a Chicago Public School Principal, have two energetic sons, John (3) and Anthony (1). In her leisure, Dimitra enjoys shopping and vacationing ... when she gets a chance!

Standards Revision

ACPE's current PharmD Standards were adopted in 1997 and implemented in 2000. As a commitment to continuous quality improvement, and to ensure that the professional degree program standards are contemporary and reflect current education and practice, approximately every six to seven years ACPE undertakes a review of its accreditation standards, policies and procedures. Standards revision is also required by the Department of Education, by which ACPE is recognized and evaluated.

In March 2003, ACPE announced its intention to revise its accreditation standards, a proposed timeline was published, and comments were invited. Later in 2003, the timeline was amended to accommodate the update of AACP's CAPE Educational Outcomes. Deans of schools and colleges of pharmacy were invited to complete an anonymous web-based survey on the individual standards.

To date, written comments have been submitted by individual practitioners, national organizations, state boards of pharmacy, schools and colleges of pharmacy, deans and faculty members. ACPE is also studying a variety of publications that have relevance to education and accreditation, including for example,

the Institute of Medicine reports, AACP's CAPE Outcomes and Excellence Papers, articles in the professional literature, position papers, reports and policy statements.

It is proposed that a half-day session at ACPE's Strategic Planning Meeting (October 2004) will be devoted to standards review, and materials are being compiled in preparation for these discussions. At this stage, ACPE does not anticipate major changes in the standards; rather a refinement and provision of additional guidance and clarity where it is needed. After the October meeting, the first draft of the revised standards will be developed, with a proposed timeline thereafter as follows:

January 2005

Adoption of draft revised standards by ACPE Board; dissemination of draft revised standards and invitation to comment on draft

March - July 2005

Open hearings at national pharmacy meetings (APhA, NABP, AACP, and others by invitation)

End July 2005

Closure of comment period

August -December 2005

Preparation of final draft of revised standards

January 2006

Adoption of Revised Standards and Implementation Plan by ACPE Board; dissemination of Revised Standards and Implementation Plan

Contact Us ...

For additional information, please contact the ACPE staff:

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