



ASHP Foundation News Release

ASHP Foundation Announces 2015-2016 New Investigator Research Grant Recipients *Funding supports studies focused on pharmacy transitions of care*

BETHESDA, MD (February 23, 2017) -- The ASHP Research and Education Foundation awarded funding to two new investigators to study pharmacy practice model advances through the 2015-2016 [New Investigator Research Grant Program](#).

This research grant program supports practice-based research conducted by pharmacist new investigators and related to advancing pharmacy practice. The program aims to support quality research to advance pharmacy practice, develop new investigators' research skills, and help grantees develop mentoring relationships with experienced senior investigators.

The ASHP Foundation New Investigator Research Grant Program gives new investigators an incentive and a mechanism to develop and evaluate innovative practice models that could potentially expand pharmacist contributions to patient care.

“The grant recipients this year have developed research projects that further clarify the benefit of pharmacists in areas of clinical practice that are contemporary and relevant,” said review panelist Tracy Johns, Pharm.D., M.S., associate director of University of South Florida Family Medicine Residency. “Not only do they define a unique role for pharmacists in patient care, they focus on populations that are at high risk for adverse outcomes and thereby would benefit the greatest from expanded services. There are important patient safety elements to each of the projects, and both of the studies have the potential to evaluate the financial impact of pharmacy services and the return on investment for health systems.”

Each grantee was awarded \$20,000. The following is an update on the progress of their studies.

[Evaluation of Health Outcomes Associated With a Pharmacist Telephone Intervention in Transitions of Care in an Underserved Population](#)

New Investigator: Terry Dunn, B.S.Pharm., Pharm.D.

Senior Investigator: Joseph Paladino, B.S.Pharm., Pharm.D.

State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Buffalo, NY

Transitioning can put patients at high risk for medication and other medical errors. Medication changes following a hospital stay could cause confusion, especially for patients taking multiple medications.

Dr. Dunn sought to evaluate the effect of pharmacist intervention on unexpected hospital utilization. “Telephone intervention allows pharmacists to reach patients irrespective of their locations. This is

particularly important for patients in underserved areas,” said Dr. Dunn. “The benefit of this type of intervention has not been fully elucidated; our study attempts to show the benefit that can be expected when a pharmacist has an active role in the transition of patient care from the hospital to home.” Dr. Dunn hopes this study will help clarify issues like this for patients and improve outcomes by decreasing unexpected hospital utilization within 30 days after discharge.

Dr. Johns praised Dr. Dunn for how the study related to the ASHP Practice Advancement Initiative. The project is consistent with summit recommendations that pharmacists develop sustainable models for transitions across the continuum of care.

“Health systems may have established services in the area of transitions of care; however, this protocol is notable in that it aims to identify the impact of pharmacists on important patient-oriented outcomes, including unplanned hospitalization,” said Dr. Johns.

The importance of this grant program isn’t lost to Dr. Dunn. “Grants like this are important in order to stimulate grantsmanship and research by pharmacists relatively inexperienced in these activities. Having a senior researcher automatically involved in the project creates a built-in learning experience,” said Dr. Dunn.

Identification of Pharmacy Transitions of Care Patients at Highest Risk of 30-Day Hospital Readmission

New Investigator: Jordan King, Pharm.D., M.S.

Senior Investigator: Daniel Whitt, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS

University of Utah

Salt Lake City, UT

“We know that pharmacist management improves outcomes in warfarin-treated patients, but it is unclear if this intensive management is necessary when patients are treated with a direct-acting oral anticoagulant (DOAC),” said Dr. King. “If we are able to improve outcomes through management, then existing anticoagulation services can be used to implement standardized clinical management protocols, improving clinical and economic outcomes and patient experience. Our hypothesis is that patients who are managed within a dedicated anticoagulation clinic after DOAC prescribing achieve superior outcomes to patients managed via usual care,” said Dr. King. “We think there is great potential to improve patient care in this population by repurposing existing infrastructure.”

Dr. King believes this project will further demonstrate the value of pharmacists in chronic disease states as it relates to ensuring the right patient is selected, achieving adequate adherence and leaving no patient behind.

“Dr. King’s team at the University of Utah aims to document this important aspect of practice advancement,” said Dr. Johns. “In their protocol for the management of DOAC medications, a new role may be developed that expands on the traditional anticoagulation management service. This protocol is not only innovative, it has the potential to show improved safety of medication use related to thromboembolic events and bleeding complications.”

Dr. King is grateful for this opportunity and excited about how it will positively impact his career. “It’s helping to kick-start my career as an independent investigator by providing peer feedback on my

application, instilling confidence for pursuing other competitive grants, and providing an opportunity to surround myself with great mentors,” said Dr. King.

For More Information

Information about the New Investigator Research Grant Program and the abstracts of the research studies funded by this year’s program can be found at www.ashpfoundation.org/NewInvestigatorGrantees.

About the ASHP Foundation

The ASHP Research and Education Foundation (www.ashpfoundation.org) was established in 1968 by the ASHP (www.ashp.org) as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. As the philanthropic arm of ASHP, our vision is that patient outcomes improve because of the leadership and clinical skills of pharmacists, as vital members of the healthcare team, accountable for safe and effective medication use. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of patients through appropriate, safe and effective medication use.

Contact Information

Barbara B. Nussbaum, B.S.Pharm. Ph.D.

Vice President

ASHP Foundation

301-664-8736

bnussbaum@ashp.org

Bethany L. Coulter, M.A.

Director of Strategic Communications and Donor Relations

301-664-8795

bcoulter@ashp.org