

**ASHP Foundation News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF 2007-7

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**ASHP Foundation Announces Recipients of the
Hospital Pharmacist-Hospitalist VTE Research Grant**

BETHESDA, Md. (September 13, 2007) — The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 2007 recipients of the Hospital Pharmacist-Hospitalist Collaboration: VTE Prevention and Treatment Team Grant.

This research grant program, which is sponsored by sanofi-aventis, supports multidisciplinary health services research conducted by hospitalists and hospital pharmacists to prevent and treat venous thromboembolism (VTE) in hospitalized patients. VTE is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in hospitals. VTE occurs in about 2 million Americans every year, and up to 600,000 people annually are hospitalized for DVT. Complications from DVT kill up to 300,000 people a year in the United States. While most victims are 60 years old or older, DVT can strike anyone at risk. Risk factors can include the presence of serious medical conditions, such as cancer, and conditions as common as pregnancy or use of birth control medications.

“Developing a research grant program that facilitates collaboration between pharmacists and hospitalists has been a key goal for us,” says Stephen J. Allen, Executive Vice President of the ASHP Foundation. “We are excited about this partnership opportunity, and we look forward to learning about the new treatment advances that will result from the studies funded by this program.”

“The treatment and prevention of hospital-acquired VTE is a top priority for the Society of Hospital Medicine,” says Larry Wellikson, Chief Executive Officer for the Society, which is the professional organization representing hospitalists. “SHM recognizes the power of approaching this as part of a team of health professionals. We congratulate the recipients of these grants and look forward to the results of the collaborative efforts of hospitalists and pharmacists in achieving everyone’s ultimate goal of reducing the incidences of VTE in the hospital.”

The 2007 recipient teams, which each received a \$50,000 grant, are:

“Use of a Screening Tool to Exclude Patients at Low Risk of VTE: A Novel Approach to Prophylaxis”
Pharmacist Investigator: Rachel E. Hroncich, Pharm.D.
Hospitalist Investigator: J. Randle Adair, D.O.
Presbyterian Healthcare Services
Albuquerque, NM

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Study objectives: To identify a risk factor screening tool that will be reliably utilized by hospitalists during the admission process. The investigators hope to determine if an abbreviated screening tool based on the exclusion of low-risk patients and those with contraindications to prophylaxis will be more consistently completed by a hospitalist upon patient admission, as compared to a tool which aims to identify patients who are at moderate-to-high risk, and without contraindications.

“Hospitalist and Pharmacist VTE Treatment Protocol Collaborative”

Pharmacist Investigator: Robert Weibert, Pharm.D.

Hospitalist Investigator: Gregory Maynard, M.D., M.S.

UC San Diego Medical Center

San Diego, CA

Study objectives: To demonstrate markedly improved VTE management in our medical center via implementation of a VTE management best practices bundle, leveraging our past work and a proven performance improvement (PI) framework; to assess the impact of a VTE management bundle on pertinent outcomes; and to gain the experience of implementing our VTE treatment bundle necessary to build and disseminate a Web-based compendium of resources to assist other medical centers in accomplishing the same goals in an accelerated manner.

For more information about this research grant program, visit <http://www.ashpfoundation.org/research>.

The ASHP Research and Education Foundation was established in 1968 by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. The mission of the Foundation is to improve the health and well-being of patients in hospitals and health systems through appropriate, safe and effective medication use. The Foundation provides leadership and conducts education and research activities that foster the coordination of interdisciplinary medication management leading to optimal patient outcomes. Emphasis is given to programs that will have a major impact on advancing pharmacy practice in hospitals and health systems, thereby improving public health.

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