



ASHP Foundation News Release

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**ASHP Foundation Announces Recipients of the
2008 Medication Safety Team Grant**

BETHESDA, Md. (August 14, 2008) — The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 2008 recipients of the Medication Safety Team Grant: Optimizing Bedside Technology Solutions.

This research grant program, which is sponsored by a grant from Omnicell, Inc., supports research related to the use of barcode scanning technology at the point of medication administration to enhance the safe use of medications. This grant program was available to research teams composed of a combination of pharmacists, physicians, nurses and informatics experts.

“The ASHP Foundation continues to provide a very important source of funding that supports research that will answer important questions and solve problems that many hospitals are facing as they work to implement and optimize bar code medication administration patient safety systems,” says Jim Garrelts, Pharm.D., FASHP, Director of Pharmacy at Via Christi Regional Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Garrelts served as a member of the grantee selection panel. “The quality of the proposals submitted for this award program has been excellent.”

The 2008 recipient teams, which each received a \$40,000 grant, are:

“A Randomized Controlled Study to Identify Workflow Factors in Implementing Safe and Effective Bedside Barcode Technology in the Intensive Care Units”

Pharmacist Investigator: Craig P. Frost, R.Ph., MBA

Co-Principal Investigator: Sujit S. Sansgiry, Ph.D.

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Houston, TX

University of Houston, Houston, TX

This study will identify workflow factors in implementing safe and effective bedside bar coding technology in the intensive care environment. The research team will be comprised of three pharmacists, a physician, an intensive care nurse, a nurse with informatics specialization, and a graduate research

assistant with a pharmacy background. The study will compare time devoted to medication administration in an intensive care unit with and without bedside bar code technology.

“A Work Process Design Strategy to Reduce Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) Side Effects for Improved Patient Safety”

Pharmacist Investigator: Steven R. Abel, Pharm.D.

Co-Principal Investigator: Vincent Duffy, Ph.D.

Purdue School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Indianapolis, IN

Purdue University School of Industrial Engineering, West Lafayette, IN

The goal of this study is to preemptively reduce and/or eliminate the potential for deficiencies and unintended side effects that could lead to adverse events at Wishard Health Services (WHS) following bar code medication administration implementation. The model applied at WHS will include successful practices and exclude those work processes that resulted in barriers to safe practices at a local VA Hospital. The project will be undertaken with the cooperation of staff from the patient safety teams in both hospitals and researchers from Purdue University Schools of Pharmacy and Engineering.

“This grant program supports research related to a critically important component of a safe medication-use process,” says Stephen J. Allen, M.S., FASHP, ASHP Foundation Executive Vice President and CEO. “Both investigator teams are focusing on important questions related to potential barriers to the implementation of barcode use in healthcare settings. In each case, the research teams are composed of practice-based pharmacists and experienced researchers. This combination is key to the broad translation of their ultimate research findings into practice.”

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

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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