



ASHP Foundation News Release

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ASHP Foundation Announces Recipients of Pharmacy Resident Grants

BETHESDA, Md. (March 23, 2009) — The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 2008-2009 recipients of the Pharmacy Resident Practice-Based Research Grant Program. This program, which is supported by the ASHP Foundation, encourages practice-based research in medication use that is conducted by residents in ASHP-accredited pharmacy residency. Five \$5,000 grants were awarded.

The 2008-2009 recipients are:

Comparative Efficacy and Safety of Refractory Diuretic Regimens in Acute Heart Failure

Principal Investigator: Erica Konopka, Pharm.D.

Senior Investigator: Tien M.H. Ng, Pharm.D.

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

The purpose of this study is to evaluate potential clinical differences between the common therapeutic regimens used for enhancing diuresis in acute heart failure, and to determine if predictors of response can be identified, which could then be used to potentially guide optimal therapy.

Differences in Clinical Outcomes Between Young and Old Elderly Patients Taking Warfarin

Principal Investigator: Kelly A. Lempicki, Pharm.D.

Senior Investigator: Mary Ann Kliethermes, B.S., Pharm.D.

Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy

Downers Grove, IL

The objective of this study is to answer the question: Is there a difference in clinical outcomes between young and old elderly patients taking warfarin? The primary aim is to determine if there is a difference between young and old elderly patients taking warfarin in regard to time-in-therapeutic range and incidence of bleeding and thrombotic complications.

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Evaluation of Emergency Pharmacist Services on Antimicrobial Stewardship for Ambulatory Patients Discharged from the Emergency Department

Principal Investigator: Stephanie N. Baker, Pharm.D.

Senior Investigator: Elizabeth Dodds Ashley, Pharm.D.

University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the effect of the emergency pharmacist (EPH) on the time to appropriate antimicrobial therapy for patients initially evaluated in the emergency department. Secondary objectives are to determine if the EPH affects empiric and final antimicrobial choice and the rate of readmission to the emergency department.

Investigating Risk of Suicide Attempt in Veteran Patients Being Treated for Bipolar Disorder with Antiepileptic Drugs

Principal Investigator: Jennifer R. Lee, Pharm.D.

Senior Investigator: Jane M. Forde, Pharm.D.

VA Boston Healthcare System

Boston, MA

Stemming from an FDA-issued alert, this study seeks to determine whether patients receiving antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) have an increased risk of suicidal behavior or ideation. The primary objective is to determine whether AEDs increase a patient's risk of suicide attempts resulting in hospital admissions. The secondary objectives are to determine whether any of the AEDs studied are more likely to increase a patient's risk of suicide attempt and to determine whether AEDs are associated with an increase in suicidal ideation.

Predictors of Poor Medication Adherence Among Urban Latinos: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Patients Enrolled in the Diabetes Among Latinos Best Practices (DIALBEST) Trial

Principal Investigator: Jennifer A. Colby, Pharm.D.

Senior Investigator: Fei Wang, M.Sc., Pharm.D.

Hartford Hospital and University of Connecticut, School of Pharmacy

Hartford, CT

Poor medication adherence has been associated with failure of patients to achieve treatment goals, and as a result, an increased risk of all-cause morbidity and mortality. Previous studies conducted in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus have identified various predictors of poor medication adherence; however, a paucity of data exists specifically in an urban Latino community. Therefore, the primary objective of this study will be to identify factors that predict poor medication adherence within such a population.

“As a first-time member of the review panel for this grant program, I was very impressed with the quantity and quality of the applications that were submitted,” said Dr. Rhonda Cooper-DeHoff, Pharm.D., M.S., Research Associate Professor and Associate Director of the Clinical Research Program at the University of Florida in Gainesville. “In an era when many hospital pharmacy programs are forced to focus primarily on dispensing functions due to necessary cost containment, it was very impressive to see pharmacy residents from so many different residency programs submit applications that were so well-thought-out and that were mentored by high-quality preceptors.”

Practice-based research affects a wide range of medication-use topics, including patient education; patient outcomes and effectiveness of medication therapy; health care quality; medication use in minority, elderly

and other special populations; medication costs and financing; information for health care policymakers; and access to medications. A secondary goal of the program is to develop pharmacy residents' research skills while fostering development of mentoring relationships with more experienced senior investigators.

Abstracts of each of the research studies funded by this year's Pharmacy Resident Practice-Based Research Grant Program can be found at the ASHP Foundation's online Research Resource Center at 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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