



ASHP Foundation News Release

ASHP Foundation Awards Junior Investigator Research Grant to Study Impact of Pharmacist-Run Telephone Medication Therapy Management Program

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Core News Facts

Leticia R. Moczygemba, Pharm.D., Ph.D., has been named the 2009 recipient of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation's Junior Investigator Research Grant.

The Junior Investigator Research Grant Program supports practice-based research in medication use conducted by pharmacist new investigators. 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; program evaluations; and access to medications.

Dr. Moczygemba is an Assistant Professor at the School of Pharmacy at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. She will use the \$20,000 grant to conduct a study entitled "The Impact of Pharmacist-Provision of a Telephone MTM Program to Medicare Part D Beneficiaries: A 12-Month Follow-Up," with guidance from a senior investigator, Jamie C. Barner, Ph.D.

When Medicare Part D was passed in 2003, not only were prescription medications covered, but management of these medications, called medication therapy management (MTM), was also included as a benefit. Pharmacists were specifically named as one of the providers for this type of service, which includes medication review along with several other medication-related patient care services. The purpose of MTM is to improve medication use by promoting medication adherence, preventing adverse medication events and optimizing patient outcomes.

Dr. Moczygemba's study will examine outcomes from a pharmacist-provided telephone MTM program to determine the impact of the MTM program on medication and health-related problems, medication adherence and total Part D drug costs during a 12-month period. It is hoped that this study will highlight the role that pharmacists have in helping patients manage their medications and demonstrate the value of pharmacists as MTM providers.

Suggested Persons to Interview and Attributable Quotes

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“Pharmacist patient care services, like MTM, are important to the future of pharmacy, and pharmacists have the knowledge and skills to help patients optimize their medication regimens,” says Moczygema. “Therefore, measuring outcomes from pharmacist-provided MTM is important to enhance awareness about the pharmacist’s role in helping patients manage their medications.”

Related Resources

An abstract of this research study can be found at the ASHP Foundation’s online Research Resource Center at www.ashpfoundation.org.

About the Foundation

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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