

**ASHP Foundation News Release**

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Contact: Daniel J. Cobaugh
301-664-8767

ASHP Foundation Announces Recipients of Junior Investigator Research Grant

BETHESDA, Md. (August 7, 2007) — The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 2007 recipients of the Junior Investigator Research Grant Program.

This research grant program supports health services research in medication use that is conducted by pharmacist junior investigators. Health services 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.

“It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain research funding in today’s environment, and young investigators are at a bigger disadvantage because they don’t have a track record of successful research,” says Kim C. Coley, Pharm.D., an associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and a selection panel member for this grant program. “This makes the ASHP Foundation’s Junior Investigator Research Grant Program all that more relevant because it provides these individuals with the opportunity to achieve the goal of becoming an independent pharmacy researcher.”

The 2007 recipients are:

“Effect of Lubiprostone on Nutritional Status and Pulmonary Function in Adults with Cystic Fibrosis”

Junior Investigator: Catherine E. O'Brien, Pharm.D.

Senior Investigator: Cindy D. Stowe, Pharm.D.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy

Little Rock, AR

Study objectives: To examine the effects of lubiprostone in adults with cystic fibrosis. The specific aims are to determine the effects of lubiprostone on nutritional markers and pulmonary function in adults with cystic fibrosis.

“Anti-Osteoporosis Medication Trends and Determination in the U.S. Ambulatory Population from 1996 to 2004: Results from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)”

Junior Investigator: Joel F. Farley, Ph.D.

Senior Investigator: Susan J. Blalock, M.P.H., Ph.D.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Study objectives: To describe trends in utilization and spending for anti-osteoporosis medications in an ambulatory United States population from 1996 to 2004, to identify characteristics that differentiate anti-osteoporosis medication users from non-users among a United States ambulatory population, and to describe how dissemination results from the Women’s Health Initiative in 2002 affected anti-osteoporosis medication treatment decisions among post-menopausal women.

The ASHP Foundation looks for applications that emphasize interdisciplinary collaborations, project objectives that address health services research related to medication use, prudent use of grant funds, sound research methods that supports the project objectives, mentoring activities between a senior investigator/advisor and the junior investigator, the potential for projects to be replicated in other health care facilities, and the impact that the results of the project will have on medication use. Preference is given to research projects with the potential to yield strong scientific evidence that can be applied to practice.

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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