



ASHP sets high bar for the profession

At ASHP's 2007 summer meeting, the house of delegates approved a resolution calling for all pharmacists to complete a residency as a prerequisite to direct patient care by the year 2020.

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Outgoing ASHP president Cynthia Brennan (l.) pushes for a specialty in ambulatory care as incoming president Janet Silvester looks on.

As hospital pharmacists look back on all the ASHP meetings they've attended over the years, two things will separate the association's 2007 summer meeting from the pack. It was at this meeting, which took place last month in San Francisco, that ASHP's house of delegates drew a line in the sand and passed a resolution calling for the completion of a pharmacy residency as a prerequisite for all pharmacists who engage in direct patient care by 2020. Also, Henri Manasse, ASHP CEO, was the one who received the Harvey A. K. Whitney Lecture Award, considered the most prestigious honor bestowed by the association.

Explaining the reasoning behind the resolution, Manasse said, as more complex medications are being introduced, licensure will not be enough. Pharmacy students aren't going to be turnkey healthcare experts on the day they graduate. Completing a residency will become a minimum requirement. Besides, ASHP officials noted, passage of this resolution will strengthen their bid for funding for postgraduate year 2 (PGY2) residencies from the government.



A well-wisher congratulates Henri Manasse and his wife at the Harvey A. K. Whitney award dinner.



While there were some dissenters to this resolution, it passed the house overwhelmingly and, at press time, is set to be taken up at the

The revised ASHP logo sports a new tag line. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy annual meeting in Florida this month.

ASHP didn't stop there in terms of setting the bar for the profession. Outgoing president Cynthia Brennan told reporters at a press conference that the association is planning to work with the American Pharmacists Association and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy to submit a petition for ambulatory care to the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. This follows a BPS task analysis, which found there are differences between ambulatory care and the already-approved specialty pharmacotherapy, with the latter being more acute care in nature and the former involving managing outpatients' medications on a longer-term basis.

ASHP officials acknowledged that hospital pharmacists have their work cut out for them. They are already facing an ASHP 2015 initiative, which sets sundry goals for hospital pharmacists to meet. Now they are urged to achieve pharmacy residency by 2020. Manasse told attendees that the association has proclaimed to all that pharmacists are the drug experts. If they can't meet this claim because of pragmatics, he warned, "other, less competent people might step in" to take their place.

In other news, ASHP revealed that it would:

- Spend \$2 million over the next three years for an enhanced advocacy program. It will fight for such things as third-party payment for pharmacists' services.
- Spend significant funds on building its new section of pharmacy informatics and improve the association's Web site and technology capabilities.
- Offer its first Pharmacy Leadership Academy next year to cultivate new leaders for the profession.
- Launch a six-month pharmacy certificate program to develop emergency department pharmacists. Already 20 pharmacists have been chosen to take part in this program, which will craft a toolkit to help hospitals implement ED pharmacist programs.
- Cosponsor a summit on medication reconciliation with the Joint Commission and other groups in Chicago this September.

Also at the meeting:

- The house passed a range of policies from discouraging the administration of injectables brought to hospitals by patients when their storage conditions cannot be verified to urging the removal of propoxyphene from the market since it's neither safe nor effective.
- National Pharmacy Week, in October of every year, has now evolved into two separate events under two organizations. APhA has laid claim to the name American Pharmacists Month. ASHP calls its event National Hospital and Health-System Pharmacy Week, to be observed Oct. 21-27 this year. There is no turf tussle between the two organizations over this issue, ASHP claims, adding that its activities will be a part of APhA's observance.
- Manasse told reporters that several retail chains have expressed interest in seeking accreditation from ASHP for their technician training programs following the recent

"20/20" exposé on drug errors, but he is not at liberty to divulge their names.

- ASHP officials updated reporters on a white paper the association developed with the Society for Hospital Medicine on how pharmacists can collaborate with hospitalists. The comment period has closed on the draft, and a final report should be issued before the end of the year.
- ASHP showed TV spots it has prepared urging patients to "Ask for me" (their pharmacist) when they are in the hospital.
- The association unveiled a new logo with the tag line "Together we make a great team."