Louis Diamond resigns as School of Pharmacy dean

School facing real changes, challenges ahead, he predicts

Greg Stiegemann, MD, interim chancellor of the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, announced on Jan. 10 that Louis Diamond, PhD, would step down from his dean’s position on Aug. 31 and return to a faculty position.

While reflecting upon his tenure as dean of the School of Pharmacy, Dr. Diamond realized that he would reach his 20-year mark in August.

“That’s long enough for me,” he said with a smile, as he outlined the school’s progress over the past 20 years.

“Our School of Pharmacy will be facing many significant changes and bold challenges in the next five to 10 years, and needs a dean who is willing to hold the position for at least a decade,” Dr. Diamond said. “Realistically, I would not remain as dean for another 10 years and I think it’s essential that a new dean be appointed who will be willing to commit to a long-term future with the school.”

Stout St. Clinic pharmacy serves Denver’s homeless population

Each day, the pharmacy at the Stout Street Clinic of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, fills more than 300 prescriptions for indigent individuals in Denver at no cost to the patients.

The pharmacy supplies services to the homeless that complement the primary health care services provided by Stout Street Clinic.

In September 2005, the pharmacy became registered as a prescription drug outlet by the Colorado Pharmacy Board and now has the possibility of accepting Medicaid and Medicare Part D.

The partnership with the school and the collegial relationships with the school’s faculty and staff, as well as the expertise of Tisha Silva, PharmD, ’00, were instrumental in achieving this milestone.

Dr. Silva, who became the pharmacy supervisor in February 2004, oversees a staff of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, interns and volunteers.

The pharmacy provides opportunities for SOP students to learn and practice health care with a high-need and underserved population of patients.

For several years, the SOP had placed students in rotations at the pharmacy intermittently. The partnership between the pharmacy and the school, along with Dr. Silva in the supervisory position, have brought consistency to student rotations and improved patient care.

SOP students are now being assigned to rotations at the site yearround on a regular basis.

“Becoming a registered pharmacy allows us to start accepting Medicaid and Medicare, which benefits the patients by allowing them to get their medications filled at one location so they don’t have to go to an outside pharmacy,” said Dr. Silva. “When patients go to an outside pharmacy, it’s difficult for us to monitor whether they picked up their medication or if they are having problems with side effects or dosages.”

Previously designated as an “other outlet,” the Stout Street Clinic’s pharmacy did not have to follow the strict rules required of an official Pharmacy or “prescription drug outlet.” At an “other outlet,” for example, a pharmacist doesn’t have to be on duty at all times and technicians alone can fill prescriptions without oversight. Now, the pharmacy must adhere to a strictly

Continued on Page 3...
Riding the wave toward an independent pharmacy

By Eugene Medley
President, NCPA student chapter

Three members of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) student chapter at the School of Pharmacy rode “The Independent Wave” in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The wave was the theme of the 107th NCPA Annual Convention and Trade Exposition which was held Oct. 15-19.

As aspiring independent pharmacists and chapter leaders, Miciah Davis, vice president, and Nick Vogel, treasurer, joined me to represent the Colorado chapter.

During the five-day event, we attended seminars associated with obtaining an independent pharmacy. In addition, we attended seminars regarding the generation of a business plan for a private enterprise and one on the lucrative benefits of hard work and personal satisfaction derived from working for one’s self and family.

We also attended the business plan competition, won by the University of the Pacific School of Pharmacy for their development of an innovative plan that integrated a women’s spa with an independent pharmacy.

The keynote speaker was former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, who presented his ideas on transforming the health care system in this country. Another feature presentation was given by Malcolm Gladwell, who spoke on the influence of an innovative plan that integrated a women’s spa with an independent pharmacy.

The moderator was Jim McAllister III, director of the Department of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina Hospitals, and editor of Pharmacy Times, Health-Systems Pharmacy Section. The other students participating in the roundtable represented the nation and learn about the future of our profession. For other students interested in attending a national professional convention and learning about the entrepreneurial aspect of pharmacy, the 108th NCPA Annual Convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nev., Oct. 7-11.

While in Florida, I also participated in a roundtable discussion on the future of pharmacy. This was hosted by Pharmacy Times magazine (the article was published in the January Careers Issue). I was one of eight students invited from across the nation to attend and participate in the event, which is a new initiative to enhance student involvement at national meetings.

The moderator was Jim McAllister III, director of the Department of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina Hospitals, and editor of Pharmacy Times, Health-Systems Pharmacy Section. The other students participating in the roundtable represented the Universities of Connecticut, Maryland, Southern California, Washington, Arizona and North Carolina along with Duquesne University.

For nearly two hours we discussed questions ranging from “How important do you think the pharmacy technician will be in your future?” to “How important are residencies and why do some schools seem to have more graduates seeking residencies?”

All in all, we were able to network with our peers from across the nation and learn about the future of our profession. For other students interested in attending a national professional convention and learning about the entrepreneurial aspect of pharmacy, the 106th NCPA Annual Convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nev., Oct. 7-11.
Student delegate advocates for policy participation

In her Sept. 23 talk to pharmacy students and faculty, Jennifer Short, PharmD student from the University of New Mexico, asked the audience to imagine what the pharmacy profession might look like in the next five to 10 years. Short was on hand to talk about the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP). As a speaker of the APhA-ASP House of Delegates, she had been traveling to pharmacy schools throughout the country to help promote student professional development. She spoke from a student’s perspective on pharmacy practice policy and advocacy.

APhA-ASP is an organization for students preparing to enter the pharmacy profession. Its mission is to be the collective voice of pharmacy students, to provide opportunities for professional growth, and to envision and actively promote the future of pharmacy.

“APhA-ASP plays a key role in helping students navigate through pharmacy school, explore careers in pharmacy and connect with others in the profession,” said Short. “Law and policy dramatically shape the practice of pharmacy. It is imperative that student pharmacists advocate for our profession to ensure the public recognizes our value.”

The APhA-ASP policy process covers a wide range of pharmacy issues and gives members an opportunity to voice their ideas and opinions to influence the academy’s goals and objectives.

One of the ways students can get involved with APhA-ASP is by participating in the policy process. She listed three reasons why students should care about policy: it provides political power, gives the organization direction and is an educational process.

“Our unique position as student pharmacists allows us to bring energy and enthusiasm to the grassroots advocacy movement for our profession,” said Short. “Get involved and help shape our professional future.”

Prior to joining the staff at Stout Street Pharmacy, Dr. Silva was working at a Kaiser Travel Clinic. In addition to being the pharmacy supervisor, she assists with the SOP’s pharmacy law class.

Dr. Silva’s vision for the pharmacy is to have all her pharmacy staff be involved in clinical aspects of pharmacy, whether it’s presenting educational classes on smoking cessation and diabetes or interacting with providers and other health care professionals.

“In terms of operation, the pharmacy is where it needs to be now,” said Dr. Silva. “In terms of our work flow and staffing needs, those are well met. We always need volunteer pharmacists.”

Three of the pharmacy students who have rotated through the Stout Street Pharmacy – Kelly Gault Butler, P4; Baochau Nguyen, P4; and Theresa Cao, P4; share their impressions of the unique experience below.

Christy Harmon, P4, hones her pharmacy skills at the Stout Street Clinic.

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Kelly Gault Butler

“The highlight of my experience was practicing ‘altruistic pharmacy’ on a daily basis. At Stout Street Pharmacy, the focus is not on formularies or the newest technology, but on how they can best serve the community – one person at a time. I was so surprised by the level of individualized care given by the dedicated staff.

“The amount of paperwork required to get free drugs from patient assistance programs was rather impressive. It just showed that prescription help is out there, as long as knowledgeable people are willing to take the extra time and energy to find it.

“My experience at Stout Street Pharmacy has taught me that as I make my future plans for being a community pharmacist, I always remember that I am there for the community first and the pharmacy second.”

Baochau Nguyen

“The highlight of my experience at Stout Street was seeing the process of the pharmacy becoming registered. I have worked there more than a year now and it’s amazing how much everything has changed. I helped with the remodeling process so that the pharmacy is more user-friendly and best utilizes what little space we have available. I now understand the amount of work that’s involved in becoming registered with the State Board.

“I’ve worked in the pharmacy field for more than five years and only had one view of it until I started at Stout Street. The patients are a different population than I’m used to. Before, I never thought about how patients, who could not afford insurance, got their medications. I just assumed they paid cash for them. This experience gives me a new respect for drug companies. Without their assistance in providing medications for our pharmacy, we would not be able to provide care for our patients.”

Theresa Cao

“For many patients at Stout Street Clinic, this is the only health care they have ever received, so they are appreciative and receptive to counseling about their medications. Throughout pharmacy school, I developed a standard patient counseling technique, which to my surprise, was not completely applicable to these patients. It dawned on me that these patients do not have the resources needed to stay healthy. They don’t have money to buy healthy food, toothbrushes to clean their teeth, soap to wash their hands, beds to sleep in. It was a real eye-opener, to say the least.

“One great activity that P4s on rotation here get to participate in, is the smoking cessation class held once a week. Along with a nurse, I was able to have one-on-one contact with patients and help them to understand the addiction potential of nicotine, and to educate them about the consequences of smoking (i.e., heart and lung disease, cancer, bad breath, etc.). It was quite fulfilling for me to make an impact in these peoples’ lives and help them make that decision to quit and improve their health.”
**SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

**NEWS**

Winter 2006

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**Professor John Carpenter awarded Shell Prize for research excellence**

John Carpenter, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and codirector of the Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, was honored at a reception and dinner on Nov. 10 as the recipient of the John and Barbara Shell Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Research and Graduate Education.

Dr. Carpenter has been a faculty member since January 1993. His route to the School of Pharmacy came by way of biology. He received his bachelor’s in zoology from Duke University, his master’s in zoology from Oregon State University, and his PhD in biology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

His interest in enzymology and protein biophysical chemistry began during his postdoctoral research at the University of California at Davis. As part of this work in the mid 1980s, he became interested in the stabilization of enzymes during freeze-thawing and freeze-drying. Publications from this work caught the attention of researchers in biotechnology companies, especially a key group from Amgen. As a result, Dr. Carpenter has been collaborating with Amgen researchers for nearly 20 years.

His current research focuses on mechanisms for degradation and stabilization of therapeutic proteins. For example, a critical safety problem with therapeutic proteins is aggregation, which are clumps of protein molecules. Even at low levels, aggregates can cause adverse responses in patients. Dr. Carpenter and his CU-Boulder colleague, Professor Ted Randolph, have elucidated the critical physical and chemical factors that govern protein aggregation. This insight is being used to guide development of formulations to inhibit aggregation of therapeutic proteins.

**SOP collaboration earns DEcIDE research center designation**

The School of Pharmacy collaborated with the School of Medicine and the Colorado Health Outcomes program at the SOM, to successfully acquire designation as one of 13 national centers to conduct research on comparative medication effectiveness and outcomes.

The centers will conduct research under the auspices of a new program recently launched by the Health and Human Services Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. As a research center for the Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness (DEcIDE) program, research outcomes will help clinicians and patients determine which drugs and other medical treatments work best for various health conditions.

John Steiner, MD, professor and director of the Colorado Health Outcomes program at the School of Medicine, is principal investigator. Robert Valuck, PhD, associate professor in clinical pharmacy, and David West, PhD, associate professor in internal medicine, are co-investigators.

DEcIDE research centers will carry out accelerated studies, including research aimed at filling knowledge gaps about treatment effectiveness. Operating under strict procedures to guarantee privacy, DEcIDE centers will use de-identified patient data available through insurers and health plans to answer questions about the use, benefits and risks of medications and other therapies.

Specific task orders have not yet been assigned, but examples of studies the school might be asked to conduct are examining comparative effectiveness of atypical antipsychotic medications with a focus on side effect profiles and idiosyncratic reactions or analyzing claims data on lipid-lowering agents. The SOP is uniquely prepared to conduct either study.

“We have a six-state Medicaid database built with five years of data from 700,000 people who use antipsychotics,” said Dr. Valuck. “And, we already completed an outcomes-based analysis with claims data from a health insurer on lipid lowering agents. We have approval to use the database to conduct additional studies, so we could get a (DeCIDE study) done in six months. We’re ready.”

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**Two students receive awards for excellence in research**

Further acknowledgement of the importance of training graduate students at the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy is the Heim Prize for Excellence in Research. Honored at the annual dinner held Nov. 10 were this year’s recipients of the graduate student research awards, which are provided by the Harold C. Heim Endowment for Graduate Research and Education. Recipients were David Carbone and Shouvik Roy.

The awards consist of an engraved plaque, a check for $1,000 and a $500 travel stipend.

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Professor John Carpenter awarded Shell Prize for research excellence

Dr. Carpenter is also working on stability problems with recombinant protein-based and live viral vaccines. This work focuses in part on a vaccine against botulimum for the federal government. As the most potent toxin in the world, botulimum is considered a potential bioterrorism agent.

He has obtained patents for inventions and has co-founded two companies: BaroFold and AktivDry. BaroFold is commercializing patented technology that uses high pressure to disaggregate and refold proteins. This approach can result in production of proteins that previously could not be manufactured, as well as reduce aggregates in final formulations to improve patient safety. AktivDry is commercializing a novel micro- and nanoparticle production method. AktivDry is working with a grant from the Gates Foundation to develop a dried powder measles vaccine for needle-free delivery applications in third world countries.

Dr. Carpenter teaches graduate courses in drug development and protein formulation, and in the PharmD curriculum, he teaches cardiovascular and pulmonary physiology. To date, he has trained 20 PhD students and 10 postdocs in his lab, and has mentored several other students and postdocs.

“We conduct research because it’s important to gain new knowledge,” said Dr. Carpenter. “That’s important, but it’s critical that we’re training graduate students to be the new leaders out there. Our training program is one of just a few in the country that teach students how to develop stable protein formulations. This expertise is widely needed by biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. It’s critical that we train graduate students in this area, because new products will not get made without enough well-trained people.”

The Shell prize includes a $10,000 cash award, an engraved crystal bowl and an opportunity to invite a scientist of the recipient’s choice to the school for several days of lecturing and collaboration with faculty and graduate students.

John and Barbara Shell are alumni of the School of Pharmacy and major contributors to the endowment that funds the award.

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The awards consist of an engraved plaque, a check for $1,000 and a $500 travel stipend.
Dr. Courtney Fletcher honored for distinguished career

Courtney Fletcher, PharmD, FCCP, has been selected by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy to receive the association’s prestigious 2005 Therapeutic Frontiers Lecture Award. The award was presented in San Francisco on Oct. 23, during the opening general session of the ACCP’s annual meeting.

ACCP’s Therapeutic Frontiers Lecture Award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to pharmaconutrition in his or her field. Among the criteria for this award is that the recipient is considered to be at the leading edge of research in the field. Dr. Fletcher is a professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, and director of the Antiretroviral Pharmacology Lab. He has distinguished himself as a world renowned leader in antiretroviral research, focusing on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of antiretroviral agents. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles and numerous book chapters. Dr. Fletcher has maintained a consistent record of funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for more than 15 years and currently serves as a member of the AIDS Discovery and Development of Therapeutics Study Section in the Center for Scientific Review at the NIH.

Dr. Fletcher’s lecture, titled “The Pharmacology of HIV Infection: Worlds Apart,” was delivered during the opening general session at the ACCP’s annual meeting.

Health care changes are afoot, predicts health care trend-watcher

By Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

Each day, the equivalent of a 747 airplane crashing and killing everyone on board takes place in this country. There are 100,000 people who die every year due to medical mistakes, the majority of which are caused by medication errors.

On the horizon are limited insurance plans that cap maximum coverage at $50,000. Consumers with savings-account-type plans may someday have to pick up a $10,000 deductible tab.

Sound far-fetched?

These and other startling facts and trends about health care and health coverage were presented by Jim Hertel, BPharm ’72, MBA ’74, at the annual Mont Gutke Lecture held Oct. 21. The lectureship is supported by a generous grant from the A1SAM Foundation.

Hertel is publisher of the Arizona Managed Care Newsletter & a sister publication in Arizona. In the early 1980s, he founded HealthCare Computer Corp. of America, whose focus is to observe the growth and evolution of managed-care organizations.

With wit and a remarkable amount of information, Hertel informed the audience of pharmacy students and faculty about dramatic changes taking place.

“Health care is changing and it will change the face of how America lives and how we will age,” said Hertel. “The question is how are we going to pay for it?”

Several key trends are currently driving the health care industry, according to Hertel. They include quality (as in reducing medical mistakes); insurance (who will pay what); escalating health care costs; and an emphasis on chronic disease management (five chronic diseases, including heart disease and diabetes, constitute more than 50 percent of the costs).

Referencing a Wall Street Journal article, Hertel said there are six factors that are ratcheting up health care costs, including the aging baby boomer generation, political involvement (Medicare, Part D is an example), nonprofit health care organizations changing to for-profit entities and changes in provider demands.

Increased insurance costs are being passed on from employers to employees, who as a result must pay a higher percentage of their premiums, higher co-pays and more deductibles.

The majority of Colorado’s 4.6 million residents get insurance through their employer. Of the rest, 400,000 are on Medicaid; 500,000 are Medicare beneficiaries and 750,000 are uninsured. Where there used to be 64 insurance companies insuring the bulk of Coloradans 20 years ago, now there are only 10. About a million people are in Colorado HMOs and that number is dropping.

The health care business is complex, but there are few moving parts. There are only four sources of revenue in health care: payments from employers which make up the largest part; employee contributions which are increasing dramatically; out-of-pocket costs paid by consumers; and government payments.

When payments for people covered under government programs are reduced, the patients will still receive the necessary care, but providers will be forced to transfer the costs for providing that care to other consumers.

“If one of these groups doesn’t pay their full ticket, people on the other side of the equation have to pick up the difference,” said Hertel. “That’s called cost shifting and that’s what’s happening in health care today. Government is changing health care dramatically. Medicaid doesn’t pull in weight and Medicare is reducing physician fees by 4.4 percent. As a result, there are reportedly only 20 doctors in Denver now accepting new Medicare patients.”

There’s been a shift in the past 20 years from non-profit to for-profit. Hospitals, insurance plans and medical groups are increasingly becoming publicly traded entities. Hertel predicts a change coming in how physicians are organized, as well.

Another change on the horizon is high deductible health plans. The 80 percent of the population who spend only 20 percent of the health care dollars want those who are sick to shoulder more of the financial burden.

“The biggest change I’m watching happen is the change from a $5 or $10 deductible to one where people are being asked to pay $2,000 or $5,000,” he said. “I expect in the not-too-distant future to see $10,000 deductibles.”

School continues national prominence

Data from AACP regarding National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding to schools of pharmacy in the United States for federal fiscal year 2005 shows our school to be:

• Third in the nation (compared to the other 100 schools of pharmacy) for individual awards per PhD faculty member
• Second in the percentage of PhD faculty that have NIH funding
• First in the percentage of PharmD faculty that have NIH funding
• Ninth in the nation for total NIH funding

Dr. Laura Hansen appointed to national council

Laura Hansen, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS, has been appointed by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy to a three-year term on the Pharmacotherapy Specialty Council of the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS).

The nine-member specialty council is responsible for developing and administering the pharmacotherapy certification examination given annually by BPS.
Making a commitment to the future of the School of Pharmacy. The names that follow represent the alumni and friends whose gifts are helping create and imbue our School with new life, and strengthen the support of our outstanding students and faculty. The School of Pharmacy extends its sincere thanks for your support.

Every effort has been made to produce an accurate listing of donors who made a gift to the School of Pharmacy from January through December 2005. We apologize for any incorrect listings, spellings or omissions. Please let us know direct your comments or inquiries to Susan Saunders at 303-315-7559, or via email to: SOP.alumni@uchsc.edu or School of Pharmacy C-238, UCHSC, 4200 E. Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80262.

For those who made contributions of $25,000 or more:

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Todd Dale Huff
Arlene Tran
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Jane B. Frydendall
Lori Fox
Robert Fowler
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James F. Aichelman
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Avenue, Denver, CO 80262.
Charles Sintek, MS, RPh, BCPS, was recognized at the 2005 commencement for his teaching and professional skills.

What do you think are the keys to being a successful preceptor?
A successful preceptor has enthusiasm for the practice of pharmacy and for serving as a teacher and role model for developing professional pharmacists. A successful preceptor makes his/her practice environment one where students are challenged to think, to apply their knowledge, and to problem-solve while providing services for individual patients. A successful preceptor offers a learning experience that is organized with clear expectations and with timely and useful feedback to the student about their performance. A successful preceptor listens to and learns from feedback from his/her students, as well.

Why are you a preceptor? Why do you like working with students?
I am a preceptor because I like working with and teaching students. I enjoy watching students as they develop proficiency in clinical practice skills and as they gain new insight into their potential roles as the pharmacist member of the health care team. I think pharmacists have a professional obligation to contribute to the training of future pharmacists. Precepting students has provided me with a strong incentive to continuously improve my skills in interpersonal communication and in the giving and receiving of constructive feedback. I also enjoy and benefit from my preceptor relationship with the School of Pharmacy and the academic environment.

What advice do you give to the students you precept?
Consider every patient as an individual, not as a disease state or a drug regimen. No matter what you do or how good you are at it, you can always improve. You should strive to self-evaluate and reflect on your work and how you might do it better or more efficiently the next time.

What kind of experience do you hope students have at your facility?
I hope that students gain an experience that demonstrates to them how they as pharmacists can work in a stimulating job environment where they will enjoy working, where they can apply their knowledge and skills, and where they have a sense of accomplishment in knowing that they have contributed to better health outcomes for patients. It is particularly rewarding for me when I observe (sometimes almost overnight) that a student has made the transition from "pharmacy student - one who follows instructions," to "professional pharmacist – one who uses an analytical and clinical problem solving approach to pharmacy care."

Why did you choose pharmacy as a career?
I ended up as a pharmacist almost by chance. I initially thought that I wanted to be an engineer. Once I started college I found that I did not like the pre-engineering coursework, particularly mechanical drawing. I had become friends with a pharmacy student who lived on my floor at the college dormitory. In talking with him I came to learn more about the college of pharmacy and the types of coursework it took to become a pharmacist. I decided that pharmacy would be a good career for me because the science (biology, chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceuticals), the patient care, and the potential income all appealed to me.

Where did you get your degrees?
I graduated with a BS in pharmacy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1973. I graduated with a MS in pharmacy from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 1978.

Where do you work now? What do you do there?
I have been a clinical pharmacy specialist at the VA Medical Center in Denver since 1982. My clinical practice is as a provider in the multidisciplinary pain clinic. As a member of the pain clinic team I work with a psychologist, a rehabilitation medicine physician, and an anesthesiologist. I evaluate chronic pain patients, consult on their drug therapy management, and I manage therapeutic trials of specific drugs for selected patients. I am the director and a preceptor for residents in our Pharmacy Practice Residency Program. I am the clerkship coordinator and a preceptor for PharmD student clerkship rotations at the VA Medical Center.

Where else have you worked in the pharmacy field?
After graduation from the University of Nebraska I worked in retail pharmacy in rural Nebraska for three years. I then completed a Hospital Pharmacy Residency at the VA Medical Center in Iowa City, Iowa. I then worked at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City as an inpatient pharmacist for two years. In 1980 I moved to Colorado and started a job as the pharmacist at AMC Cancer Research Center in Lakewood, Colorado. In 1980 I also started my association with the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy as a lecturer and clerkship preceptor. I became the clinical pharmacy coordinator at the VA Medical Center in 1982.
USP Chapter 797 lays down the law on sterile preparations

By Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

The road to United States Pharmacopeia’s Chapter 797 has been long and winding, not unlike the unconventional pharmacy career path of Eric Kastango, MBA, RPh, whose talk Oct. 28 focused on the recently implemented chapter of policies and procedures for preparing Compound Sterile Preparations (CSPs).

As of January 2004, USP Chapter 797 is considered the official and state enforceable requirement for CSPs, to tell pharmacy students and faculty gathered in Denison Auditorium. This USP chapter is one of the most significant chapters in the practice of pharmacy in the last 20 years,” said Kastango. “Prior to Chapter 797, the compounding practices that pharmacists have historically followed have never been regulated, but now, all pharmacists must comply with 797.”

It’s not until a student has graduated and is on the job when most pharmacy training occurs, according to Kastango, who also spoke about his own experiences and challenges in the development of his pharmacy career.

Kastango is a Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and has served on the ASHP’s Council of Education Affairs. In 25 years, he has practiced pharmacy in a number of settings in a variety of different roles, from pharmacy technician to corporate vice president of a national home infusion company. He has worked for 14 companies, owned three, was downsized twice and has published prolifically and presented talks on sterile preparation and pharmacy compounding errors. For the past six years, he’s been with ClinicalIQ based in Florham Park, NJ, a health care consulting firm that assists clients who require expertise in USP Chapter 797.

Compounding is an essential part of pharmacy practice. However, instances of patient injury and death due to contaminated pharmacy-prepared sterile preparations prompted the FDA to consider regulating or even banning pharmacy compounding.

Kastango gave two examples of compounding errors that had grave outcomes. In Pennsylvania last year, 12,000 patients, while in the hospital, contracted a nosocomial, or hospital-acquired infection, that had nothing to do with their original diagnosis. Of those patients, 1,500 died from their hospital-acquired infection.

In South Carolina a couple of years ago, a patient received a steroid injection from his physician and 125 days later presented with an emergency room with fungal meningitis. Through forensic microbiology sleuthing, the fungus was identified as originating in soil containing black mold. The Centers for Disease Control got involved in the case because there had been no human instances of illness caused from this particular black mold anywhere on the East Coast for 30 years. The contamination was eventually traced to a pharmacy in Spartanburg, SC, where the methylprednisolone preparation was made.

“Believe it or not, this happens more than you can imagine,” he said. “We have a responsibility as pharmacists to understand that we play an absolute, critical role in ensuring the integrity of the preparations we make. We cannot afford to be cavalier about this.”

In 1993, ASHP published guidelines for quality assurance for pharmacy preparations. Because they were just guidelines with no teeth for enforcement, the FDA was still not satisfied. The situation really became heated when the FDA tried to take compounding practice rights away from pharmacy, basing its actions on the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938 which had declared pharmacy compounding as illegal.

In 1997, Congress passed a bill called the FDA Modernization Act to clearly define the difference between manufacturing and pharmacy compounding. A group of pharmacists from Colorado and California banded together to file suit with the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the bill. The court ruled the bill unconstitutional. Although the FDA lost that particular effort to regulate pharmacy compounding, the agency nevertheless kept up pressure to make changes.

USP Chapter 797 took effect in January 2004. Its intent is to prevent patient harm and fatality from microbial contamination, excessive bacterial endotoxins or pyrogens, incorrect ingredients and large content errors in the strength of correct ingredients.

Chapter 797 applies to all practice settings where CSPs are prepared, including pharmacies, health care institutions, physicians’ offices and other ambulatory care centers.

“There is an art and science to compounding correctly, said Kastango. No one is exempt from complying with this regulation. You have both a moral and a professional responsibility to make sure that you know how to compound correctly.”

Continued on Page 9...
The 11th Annual Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (DOPS) retreat was held this past summer in Breckenridge. The research program was a success due to the enthusiastic participation of the graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, visiting research associates, and research assistants in presenting both oral and poster presentations. Congratulations to:

Outstanding Postdoctoral Oral Presentation
Aaron Henneghan, PhD

Outstanding Student Poster Presentations
Derrick Katayama
Erica Pierce

Outstanding Student Oral Presentations
John Dunn
Natalie Lassen
Brante Sampey

DOPS researchers recently awarded grants:
• Tom Anchordoquy
  National Science Foundation, Improved Synthetic Vectors by Electrostatic Co-
  Extraction, $254,000 – 8/05-7/08
• Carlos Catalano
  National Science Foundation, Physical & Biochemical Characterization of
  the Portal Complex of Bacteriophage Lambda, $664,459 – Total costs
• Richard Irons
  Shanghai Health Study, $3,824,769 – Additional funding through
  December 2007
• Cynthia Ju
  Pfizer, Inc.,
  $300,000 total direct, two years
  – and –
  National Institutes of Health, The Immunomodulatory Role of Hepatic
  Kupffer Cells, $1,405,000 total costs – 6/6-05/3/11
• LiFeng Liang
  Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, Therapeutic Potential of Metallophyrins
  in Parkinson’s disease, $40,000 – 7/1/05/6/30/06
• Al Malkinson
  Colorado Cancer Center Pilot Grant, Erlo tinib (Tarceva) therapy against
  chemically-induced mouse lung tumors and molecular characterization of Erb
  receptors and downstream signaling, $10,000 – 8/05/7/06
• David Ross
  National Institutes of Health - NCI, NQO1 Inhibitors & Pancreatic Cancer
  Therapy, $1,095,000 total costs – 9/30-05/7/09

Kudos to:
• James Roede and Natalie Lassen were awarded first prize for their oral
  and poster (respectively) presentations at the Mountain West Society of
  Toxicology meeting.
• Keith Connaghan-Jones was awarded second place for his poster,
  Computational analysis of progesterone receptor-DNA binding isotherms: insight
  into transcriptional regulation, at the Annual Protein Stability Conference.
• Natalie Lassen was elected to be the 2005-06 student councilor to the
  executive committee of MWSOT.
• Heather Walczak - Outstanding Poster award. Gordon Research
  Conference: Molecular Therapeutics of Cancer. Colby-Sawyer College, New
  London, NH
• Vasili Vasiliou was selected to serve as a member of the Anterior Eye
  Disease Study Section, Center for Scientific Review of NIH from
  November 2005 through June 2009.

Poster competition

The competition was part of the PHRD 3350 course (spring semester 2005). The class worked in groups to produce a poster suitable for use in a community pharmacy to educate the public. The winning poster is about medication-induced headaches – a condition found in migraine sufferers where the use of analgesics causes, rather than treats/prevents, headaches. Poster teammates are, left to right, Ashley Letourneau, Savannah Bennett, Audra Patten, Rebecca Swallows and Chris Turner. Group members, Lisa Martire and Christy Lee Wilson are not pictured.

Faculty to lead international symposia

Three School of Pharmacy faculty members will be leading symposia at the international Society of Toxicology meeting in San Diego, March 5-9. Symposia leaders are selected for their research reputations and interest in a particular field.

Drs. Marc Fariss and Manisha Patel will lead programs on oxidative stress and Parkinson’s disease, while Dr. Cynthia Ju will be leading a program on idiosyncratic drug reactions and immune mediated mechanisms of toxicity.

NTPD Students

Continued from page 8

recruited to help with setting up a basic computerized inventory tracking system. Believe it or not, all of the supplies that were shipped in and out were tracked manually,” Buntjer said.

“We were not working in the thick of things, but more behind the scenes, sorting large orders into caches of medications to send out to pharmacies in the field,” said Buntjer. “We supplied pharmacies that were dispensing medications for acute problems; we also sent them stock medications in the field,” said Buntjer. “We supplied pharmacies that were dispensing medications for acute problems; we also sent them stock medications to get chronic patients through five to 10 days of treatment. The chronic meds were not always exactly the same medicine that the patient had been on, but would at least be in the same class.”

When Buntjer and the other two pharmacists on staff were not dealing with medical supplies, they would help out with other tasks. For example, every truck driver that had to leave the site to take a break would have to check out from the facility.

“We spent time out on the tarmac in 107º F temperatures completing the necessary forms. It got very hot!” said Buntjer.

When Kemper and Buntjer were enrolled in NTPD classes at the time they were deployed, but were able to work with course coordinators and the director of the program, Dr. Carol Balmer, to complete their work upon returning to their normal lives.
Alumni briefs

We received notice from the niece of Dave Ulibarri, class of 1952, that he passed away, January 24, 2005.

Jeff Adler, son of William Adler, class of 1955, notified us that his father passed away in 2004.

Walter Hervi passed away in November at 87. He was born in Leadville, attended the Capital School of Pharmacy and the University of Colorado. He began his career in Leadville with Sayer-McKee Drug and Davis Drug and ended it with 31 years at Foss Drug in Golden, Colorado. Between Leadville and Golden, Hervi joined the Army when the United States entered World War II. His medical skills kept him in demand for five and a half years and then he opted out for a return to pharmacy, passing up a chance at medical school. At the time he retired from the profession in 1981, Hervi was the president and general manager of Foss Drug having overseen the expansion of that well-known store.

Bruce Kelley, class of 1985, died Sept. 6, 2005, at his home in Boulder of complications from diabetes, which he battled for 40 years. For three decades, he gave time each week to the American Diabetes Association. His greatest joy was being a counselor at Camp Colorado, the residential summer camp for approximately 250 children with diabetes. Bruce was an Eagle Scout, a graduate of CU Boulder with degrees in Pharmacy and Russian, a member of the Cosmopolitan and the Optimist Clubs, Director of student exchange/Russia at UTEP. He maintained many friends in the former Soviet Union where he often vacationed and donated medications to those in need. All of this while putting his wife through medical school. Bruce was a pharmacist by trade and a kind, gentle soul by profession. His body was donated to the University of Colorado School of Medicine for teaching purposes. He is survived by his wife and best friend DawnRenee Cinocco, MD; cats Tarzan and Boons; sisters, Diane Kelley and Cindy Perrone; brother David Kelley (Rose-Mary, Jeff, Jennifer Abbott); father Wes Kelley; In-Laws, Don and Ingrid Cinocco, Knikki, Mark and Brook of Haines, Alaska. He was preceded in death by his mother Elizabeth Morrill Atwood.

Our apologies to Tom Lotecki and Val Kalnins for misspelling their last names in the fall issue of the newsletter.

We regret the following names were omitted from the list of Non-traditional PharmD graduates for August 2005:

- Stephanie Carson
- Kara Nishida-Todd
- E. J. Chane
- Otosola Ojo

In memoriam

Robert (Bob) McGraw, BS Pharmacy, class of 1983, is living happily and camping, hiking and skiing with wife Annie and sons Michael and Colin in the Durango area. He can be contacted at: 1171 N Oak Dr, Bayfield, CO 81122 or bjomcgraw@mercydurango.org.

Carol Ann Lange, PhD, class of 1991, is a tenured professor at the University of Minnesota, specializing in breast cancer research.

Lucinda K. Iverson, BS Pharmacy, class of 1999. I am happily married to Erik and we have two children, Brooke (4) and Joseph (2). I am currently employed as a Pharmacist at Safeway in Hilo, Hawaii.

Valerie Sheehan (formerly, Castellani), PharmD, class of 2000, is now living in southern California and working for McKesson Medication Services, a Nebraska-based corporation, providing clinical trial support in the field of pharmaceutical research and development. As our 50th anniversary approaches, I would appreciate hearing from former classmates at: 2902 S. Juniper St., Tempe, AZ 85262 or by e-mail: oliverwaite@cox.net

Jennifer & Richard Fortunato, BS, class of 2000, and PharmD, class of 2004, have a new address in Nederland, CO and welcomed Richard Blake into the family on November 14, 2005. Marina Jane, born July 20, 2004 stars as the big sister.

Elisha DeLong-Sieg, BS Pharmacy, class of 2001, PharmD, class of 2002. John and I would like to announce the birth of our daughter, Caitlyn Grace Sieg, on June 13, 2005.

Robbin Cogdill, class of 2001. I am writing to let you know of the birth of my twin boys on April 1, 2005. My husband, Chad, and I had the pleasure of welcoming into the world... Grant Alexander Cogdill and Blake Harris Cogdill on April 1, 2005. We never could have imagined how much they have changed our lives or that we could actually love them more tomorrow than we did today! I am still working full-time as a pharmacist while Chad is staying home with the boys. We are living in Omaha, Nebraska and you can reach me at rcogdill52@msn.com.

Jennifer Biloft (formerly Meredith), PharmD, class of 2003, would like to announce the birth of her daughter, Makenna Ellen Biloft. She joined Jennifer and husband Adam’s family, Dec. 16, 2005, at 2:03am, weighing 6 pounds 13 ounces and 19 inches long. Jennifer can be reached via e-mail at: Biloftj@ exempla.org

Rhonda (Gray) Carlile, PharmD, class of 2003. I am working as a clinical pharmacist at St. Joseph Hospital. I married Doug Carlile in Sept. 2004 and gained a stepson, Hayden. We had baby girl, Lexi, in Sept. 2005. You can reach me at: carliler@exempla.org

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Jacqueline Levington, PharmD, class of 2004, and husband Albert welcomed their first daughter, Skylar Song Levington, into their lives, October 4, 2005. They are living in Thornton, CO.

Errata

Due to concurrent programming, each participant may receive up to two hours of continuing pharmacy education credits. In addition, participants may receive up to one hour of medication management credits. The conference will be accredited by the American College of Pharmacy Education (ACPPE). The conference will also provide a full day of ACPE-approved continuing pharmacy education credits of interest to pharmacists across a range of practices.

Topics include:
- Drug therapy management and implications for Colorado pharmacists.
- Updates on diabetes and cardiovascular disease, vaccinations and pandemic flu.
- Women’s health, COPD, and a workshop on drug therapy management.

For complete program and registration information, please call 303-756-3069 or visit www.copharm.org.

 Advances in Pharmacy Practice: 2006
presented by: Colorado Pharmacists Society &
University of Colorado School of Pharmacy

Saturday, February 25, 2006 — 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM
School of Pharmacy

Join your colleagues to hear updates about key areas of pharmacy practice presented by clinical practice experts. This conference will provide a full day of ACPE-approved continuing pharmacy education credits of interest to pharmacists across a range of practices.
The purpose of this survey is to evaluate alumni attitudes toward the CU School of Pharmacy and to gauge interest in creating an alumni association to serve the needs and interests of pharmacy alumni. The School of Pharmacy looks forward to this new opportunity to increase communication with our alumni. This survey will help us better understand alumni needs and interests and provide a basis for creating and enhancing alumni programs and events. What you say will be held in confidence. The survey is easily removed from the newsletter along the perforated folds. Return with enclosed envelope. Thank you for taking the time to provide us this information. We hope to hear from you by March 30, 2006.

Read each statement and use the key to guide your responses.

KEY
1-Never 2-Rarely 3-Occasionally 4-Frequently 5-Very Frequently

A. Since I graduated from the CU School of Pharmacy, I have...
___ 1. Talked to or met with other CU School of Pharmacy alumni
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___ 1. Help alumni feel connected to the school
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___ 7. Raise funds for scholarships, programs and endowments at the school

KEY
1-Not Interested 2-Somewhat Interested 3-Interested 4-Very Interested

D. How interested are you in performing the following types of volunteer work?
___ 1. Volunteering as a member of a School of Pharmacy alumni board, alumni club or class reunion committee
___ 2. Starting an alumni club in your area (for alumni outside of the Denver metro area)
___ 3. Hosting receptions for School of Pharmacy faculty, staff, alumni or new students
___ 4. Calling potential students to encourage them to enroll in the CU School of Pharmacy
___ 5. Providing career advice to School of Pharmacy students
___ 6. Soliciting alumni for financial gifts, e.g., lectureships, capital campaign and special gifts

F. As a CU School of Pharmacy alumnus/alumna, is there any feedback you can provide the school to enhance its interactions with alumni? Please write your comments on a separate page.

Name:
Address:
Email:
Phone:

CU degree/year (please list all, including department e.g., pharmacy, business, biology, etc.)
Other degrees/year/school

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY NEWS

Winter 2006

Development Council discusses the future of pharmacy

The School of Pharmacy’s Development Council met on Nov. 1, in the Edward Skaff Common Room. The program featured a presentation, The Future of Healthcare Financing: The Coming Revolution, by alumnus James Hertel, ’72, BPharm, MBA. Dennis Helling, PharmD, FCCP, FASHP, responded, augmenting Hertel’s comments.

Both Hertel and Dr. Helling described the effect of escalating employee benefits costs, noting that expenses frequently are passed on to employees through higher co-payments and larger deductibles. Hertel noted that consumer reactions to these changes have resulted in greater interest in lower cost generics and in increased problems with patient compliance. Patients often do not get their prescriptions filled and when they do, many do not take their medications according to directions, in order to save money.

Medicare Part D presents a great challenge to retail pharmacists according to Hertel. He speculated that equalization of prescription drug costs might lead to an increase in consumer utilization of independent pharmacies and he expressed concern that many seniors will be too confused by the complexities of Part D to sign up prior to the May, 2006 cut-off date. Seniors who sign up after that date will be penalized.

Dr. Helling asserted that Medication Therapy Management, under Medicare Part D, would significantly impact pharmacists by providing them opportunities to become more involved in drug therapy management and by allowing them to receive reimbursement for their services. He wondered if pharmacists would take advantage of these opportunities or let them pass by.

Hertel’s and Dr. Helling’s comments came after a brief update by Dean Diamond regarding plans for moving the School of Pharmacy to the Fitzsimons campus in 2008 and was followed by a presentation to outgoing co-chairman, Robert Light.

Alumni Association Survey

Bob Light, class of 1978, has accepted a new position with Walgreens National Resource Center. This will carry Bob and his wife, Sherri, to Tempe, Arizona. Bob served as co-chair of the Development Council and helped develop and present a course in pharmacy management to our students. He also served on a number of committees with great energy and warmth. His enthusiastic participation in the school will be missed on many fronts.

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Adios, Bob Light


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Address:
Email:
Phone:

CU degree/year (please list all, including department e.g., pharmacy, business, biology, etc.)
Other degrees/year/school

If you have any questions or comments about this survey, please contact: Susan Saunders, assistant to the dean, School of Pharmacy, 303-315-7359 or SOP.Alumni@uchsc.edu.
Tell us your news

ASHP mid-year

Name

Degrees/Year

Address

City, State and Zip Code

Phone

E-mail

You may publish my _____ address      _____ phone      _____ email

Spouse also CU alumni?Year?

I'd like my former classmates to know:

FROM page 6 - Louis Diamond

Also Inside:

Page 8 – Sterile preparations for healthcare providers

Page 4 – Dr. John Carpenter

Page 5 – Dr. Robert Page and Joseph Dawson housed the CU School of Pharmacy reception for alumni and friends during the ASHP mid-year conference in early December. A crowd of alumni, faculty, and students dropped in at the reception to discuss current research and trends in the field. Dr. Louis Diamond, who is a former dean of the School of Pharmacy, was also in attendance.

Also Inside:

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