The Chicago College of Pharmacy (CCP) is currently preparing for its periodic self study and accreditation process, which is required by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The ACPE is an agency that is recognized and granted authority over pharmacy education by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. USDE recognition establishes the link between accreditation and student financial aid and other programmatic funding. USDE mandates a self-study process; therefore, ACPE requires colleges of pharmacy to conduct a self-study review periodically.

The process starts with the College submitting a report that summarizes its compliance with the accreditation standards. In developing the report, faculty and staff are tasked with reviewing the established standards and evaluating how CCP has complied with these standards. To formalize the process, Nancy Fjortoft, Ph.D., Dean of the Chicago College of Pharmacy, has convened an ad hoc Self-Study Committee, which is co-chaired by Drs. Carrie Sincak and Robin Zavod and is comprised of a representative array of CCP faculty and administrators. In addition to faculty input, data from students, preceptors, and alumni will also be included in CCP’s self-study report.

Shortly after the initial report is submitted, a team comprised of ACPE staff and field reviewers will visit campus for a live three-day meeting with faculty, staff, students, and administrators from October 31st through November 2nd. After the visit, ACPE will issue their assessment of the College’s compliance with the standards; the College will have a short window to respond with a rebuttal and provide additional information to ACPE, if necessary. The process will culminate with ACPE granting the College a term of accreditation that can be as short as one year, or as long as eight years.

“In actuality, the ACPE accreditation process is not an isolated periodic occurrence, but rather an ongoing, cyclical process based on a continuous quality improvement model,” explains Dr. Fjortoft. “Since the last self-study in 2006, I have submitted additional reports and updates to ACPE to document changes in curriculum, faculty, and adaptation to new promulgated accreditation standards.”

CCP fully recognizes the importance of the self-study and accreditation process in maintaining and promoting high-quality pharmacy education. By employing an organized approach and incorporating input from a variety of key individuals, CCP believes the 2012 self-study will proceed smoothly and conclude successfully. ■
Ask the Office of Experiential Education

by Avery Spunt, RPh, MEd, FASHP

Dear Avery,

It is the beginning of April, and I just completed precepting one of your PS-IV students on their Community Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience. The student was very knowledgeable and an asset to our practice. However, the student was uncomfortable when we reviewed the Illinois law pertaining to controlled substances. What can we do to improve this knowledge?

Dear Preceptor,

Unfortunately, the recent changes in the Illinois Controlled Substance Act that went into law January 1, 2012, are sometimes difficult to understand for both clinicians and students. Complicating this issue is that the rules for the new controlled substances act have not yet been promulgated. When our PS-IV students return to campus for their law review on May 23, 2012, we will clarify the changes in the Act, as well as what will be included on the MPJE for the rest of the year.

Key points that we do know from information provided by ICHP are as follows:

- As of August, advance practice nurses (APN) and physician assistants (PA) may write prescriptions in the outpatient setting for any and all oral, transdermal or topical controlled substances, as long as the substances are part of their collaborative agreement. Oral medications do not include buccal or sublingual medications. There is no longer a limit of five medications that may be prescribed by either mid-level practitioner. As of January 1, 2012, the collaborating physician must enter all controlled substances delegated to a mid-level practitioner in the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) so that pharmacists may determine if prescriptions written by the APN or PA are legitimate.

- APNs in the inpatient setting may prescribe controlled substances for which they have been credentialed by the hospital credentialing process. This includes injectables.

- Physician Shopping and Pharmacy Shopping are now defined. Physicians whose patients receive prescriptions from six or more physicians and six or more pharmacies in 30 days will receive a notice from the Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program.

As more information becomes available, we will disseminate it to preceptors and students. Otherwise, please feel free to call me or the OEE Faculty at 630-515-6477 if you have any questions.

Meet Our New Faculty Members

Over the last year, the Chicago College of Pharmacy has welcomed four new faculty members. Their experiences prior to joining Midwestern University vary greatly, but the College is most fortunate to have each of them on board.

Robin Hieber, Pharm.D., BCPP, joined MWU in September 2011 and specializes in psychiatric pharmacy practice. She lectures and facilitates workshops in several pharmacy practice courses in the areas of depression, anxiety, sleep, delirium, dementia, and psychiatric assessment. Dr. Hieber’s clinical practice site is at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in acute inpatient psychiatry.

In coming to Midwestern University, Dr. Hieber says, “I was looking for an opportunity to become a faculty member at a well-established college of pharmacy. Midwestern University is an excellent place for new faculty, as it fosters improvement in teaching skills.”

She also serves as an editor for The Mental Health Clinician, an online publication of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Medha Joshi, Ph.D., came to Midwestern University in July 2011 and joined the Pharmaceutical Science department. In the Fall quarter of 2012, she will be teaching the Pharmaceutical Calculations course.

She has a Bachelors in Pharmacy and Masters in Pharmaceutics from the University of Pune, India, and has her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics from the Institute of Chemical Technology, University of Mumbai, India. Her post-doctoral training was at the Free University of Berlin, Germany and Utrecht University in The Netherlands, where she gained in-depth experience in the nanomedicine field from the labs that are considered experts in the subject.

“Incoming my Ph.D. research, I invented the nanoparticle-based formulation containing an anti-malarial drug, and it is now making its way to clinical trials in India. For this formulation, we were also granted an Indian patent,” adds Dr. Joshi.

In her research lab at the University, her research group is working on various nanoparticle-based drug delivery systems of anti-
Meet Our New Faculty Members cont’d

Radhika S. Polisetty, Pharm.D., BCPS-ID, joined Midwestern University in October 2011 and teaches Infectious Diseases topics in Pharmacy Practice. Her practice site is Central DuPage Hospital where she is an Infectious Diseases Specialist and runs the Antibiotic Stewardship Program. In addition, she chairs the Antibiotic Subcommittee and is a member of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee.

Dr. Polisetty received her Pharm.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy. She completed a two-year residency in Pharmacy Practice and Infectious Diseases specialty at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. She has been teaching and precepting students for almost five years.

Currently, she is working on quality improvement projects, including the impact of Antibiotic Stewardship at the hospital, as well as reviewing antibiotic order sets for the Cadence Health System.

“As after working as a clinical pharmacist for three years, I wanted to formally go into academia and get more involved in teaching and research,” adds Dr. Polisetty. “I am also excited about moving to the Chicago area and look forward to exploring it.”

Natarajan Venkatesan, Ph.D., also joined the College in July 2011 in the Pharmaceutical Science department, and he currently teaches Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms.

He received his Bachelor of Pharmacy from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India. Both his Masters and Ph.D. in Research were earned at Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Madhya Pradesh, India. He received the JSPS Fellowship from Govt. of Japan and went there to carry out his post-doctoral research. Thereafter, he worked as an R&D Scientist for three years in India where developed formulations for new chemical entities, bio-similar and novel drug delivery systems. Some of these formulations are now marketed in India. He taught in India for three years.

Best known as “Dr. Venkat,” he explains, “I came to Midwestern University because the environment provides me the opportunity to do both teaching and research. I also appreciate the amount of importance that is given here for teaching in order to help students achieve their goals.”

In a personal note, he and his wife, Priya, have welcomed a new baby boy named Sridhar, now three months old. They have an older son, Murugan, who is 7 years old.

Preceptor Pearl:

Student Projects at Practice Sites

By Timothy Todd, Pharm.D. Associate Professor

Elective coursework at CCP offers students many opportunities to learn about unique areas of pharmacy practice. Many of the College electives allow the students to learn new skills by completing projects. Unlocking these skills and allowing the students to put them to practice during a rotation can be an innovative way to increase patient care at your practice site.

A number of courses provide opportunities for students to develop skills in patient education – each with a unique approach.

• In the Practical Applications of Women’s Health Issues elective students prepare poster presentations on topics not covered within lectures to expand the knowledge base of fellow students.

• Similarly, the Medication Management in Primary and Secondary Schools elective project requires groups of students to prepare both a poster and a pamphlet on a topic pertinent to a specific age group and adjust the reading level to the target audience.

• The Pediatric Pharmacotherapy elective takes a slightly different approach to reach a similar target audience by having the student groups create activity books, games, or videos at age appropriate levels to educate elementary, junior high, or high school students on a variety of healthcare topics.

Any of these projects could easily be adapted to almost any pharmacy setting to educate patients and staff on disease states, new medications, or changes within a pharmacy.

As we start a new rotation year in June, remember to include time to ask your students which elective courses they have taken and find out what projects they have completed. It may be your opportunity to move project concepts learned in electives from concept to true pharmacy practice while adding a new dimension to your patient and staff outreach.

Calendar

Continuing Education:

Updates in Diabetes Management and Education
Saturday, June 30, 9:00AM to 5:00PM
McDonald’s Campus in Oak Brook, IL

Information & Registration: www.midwestern.edu/Programs_and_Admission/IL_Pharma
Continuing_Education.html

Keep in Touch

Let us know what’s new with you or update your contact information. You may contact Damienne Souter, Assistant to the Dean, at 630.515.7373 or dsoute@midwestern.edu or the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 800.962.3053 or alumni@midwestern.edu.

You may also go to www.midwestern.edu and click on MWUNET to access the Alumni Directory, check the Job Finder, or update your contact information. Simply login the same way you did when you were a student. Still need some assistance? Then feel free to call the IT Help Desk at 630.515.7361 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM CST.