

News & Views

45th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition

THE MIDYEAR2010

Of Note

Networking Luncheon:

Enjoy the masterful guitar and outrageous comedy of Mike Rayburn as he presents "Classically Trained, Comically Derailed" in Ballroom B on Level 3. Doors open at 12:05 pm. Lunch service after 12:20 is based on availability. Be prepared to present your luncheon ticket at the entrance. Come ready to enjoy a tasty lunch with a little New Orleans flare. A ticket to the luncheon was given to everyone who paid the full-registration fee. ASHP thanks the city of New Orleans, host city for The Midyear 2011, for being a cohost of the luncheon.



PSAV: Wii Thank You

The company providing audiovisual support services in the convention center, PSAV Presentation Services, donated the Wii for the ASHP Theme Center's raffle. The lucky winner will be contacted later this month.

Health Reform Means Challenges, Opportunities

Health care reform is all about getting better care for patients at a lower cost, said former FDA and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services chief Mark McClellan during Wednesday's special session, "Spotlight on Health-care Reform."

McClellan, who is currently health policy director at the Brookings Institution, called on attendees to "help us get through this transition in our health care system to one that is better at consistently delivering high-quality care, more sustainable from the standpoint of health care cost growth, and, most important, is fulfilling the potential of modern health care for helping all of our patients lead longer and healthier lives."

To reach that goal, McClellan said, "it's really going to take leadership from all of you."

McClellan called the federal deficit—\$1.4 trillion for 2009–2011 and growing over the long term—unsustainable. He said even if legislatively mandated cuts to provider reimbursement rates occur, other reductions in the growth of health care spending are needed to help bring the deficit under control.

If health care reform efforts don't ease federal spending, further cuts to

providers are inevitable, McClellan said.

"Whenever we're in a situation where the budget outlook is pretty grim...the final common pathway is to squeeze down the provider payment rate still further," he said. "The challenge of this approach is, while it does



Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.

give you some [savings], it doesn't necessarily do anything to really improve care."

He said health care reform models must align patient care practices, payment policy, and regulations to produce a patient-centered model of health with measurable outcomes.

Accountable care organizations, especially those that keep savings for efficiently delivered care within the health system that provides the services, are a possible model for successful reform, McClellan said.

He also cited meaningful-use provisions, medical homes, readmission penalties, and value-based payment initiatives under Medicare as elements that can help drive health care reform the way it needs to go.

In response to a question from the audience, McClellan said pharmacist-delivered medication therapy management (MTM) services provide value in health care. But he urged pharmacists to view MTM as part of the larger picture of health care improvements, not just a pharmacy issue.

"It may be better to think hard about how we can also show that we're focusing on outcomes measures that reflect MTM rather than the MTM process itself," McClellan said.

He urged attendees to think about how their practices align with health care reform initiatives.

"Critical opportunities await for the pharmacist leaders who can take advantage of the changes in our time, the crisis that we're facing in our health care system," McClellan said.

Pharmacy Officer Injured in Afghanistan

An Air Force pharmacy officer was injured in Afghanistan and is coming to National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, according to an e-mail received by ASHP Executive Vice President Henri R. Manasse Jr. The medical center is two miles from ASHP headquarters. Manasse, speaking on behalf of the ASHP staff, said, "We hope to be part of his homecoming and assist the family."

ASHP, ABHP Present Leadership Award to Buckley

Thomas E. Buckley, an assistant clinical professor at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in Storrs, received the 2010 ASHP and Association of Black Health-System Pharmacists (ABHP) Leadership Award on Wednesday.

The award recognizes individuals who have shown exceptional leadership in efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

Buckley's clinical and academic work focuses on the health disparities affecting Cambodian Americans, especially the survivors of the Cambodian holocaust and their families.

His work includes facilitating collaborations between pharmacists and pharmacy students with Cambodian community health workers and Cambodian faith healers to integrate Eastern traditional cultures and Western

medicine.

Buckley is a clinical consultant and evaluator for Khmer Health Advocates (KHA), the only Cambodian-Ameri-



(from left) ASHP President Diane Ginsburg, awardee Thomas Buckley, and Association of Black Health-System Pharmacists President Manouchkathe Cassagnot

can health care organization in the United States. He is an investigator for a federal grant to provide disease management, disease prevention, and health promotion services to targeted communities. He is also an investigator for the KHA Torture Treatment Program grant from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement.

"It's really our duty to be involved with health disparities because we're always told that pharmacists are the most accessible health care provider," Buckley said in accepting the award during the ABHP Annual Luncheon.

Providing care to the people most in need and with the most problems accessing care should not be viewed as doing a good thing, he said.

"This should be our purpose, our mission, to provide that care to people that need it the most."

photos by Lagniappe Studio