

African-American Pharmacists: Making a Difference

During Black History Month, the progress of African-Americans in many areas is celebrated. During this month and throughout the year, African-American pharmacists are educating members of the African-American community on management of diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and empowering them to take charge of issues regarding their health.

Students at Texas Southern University—one of the four historically black schools of pharmacy—target elderly populations for education on nutrition and nonprescription drug use. They also provide screening for hypertension, diabetes, and breast and prostate cancer. Faculty and students also collaborate with other health care professionals in the Houston area to offer consultations in asthma and anticoagulation clinics.

Alumni of Florida A&M University (FAMU) sponsor "Close to Your Heart" seminars throughout Florida during the month of April. The programs are held in churches, community centers, and nursing

homes to provide information and screening for diabetes and hypertension management. Pharmacists counsel participants on the consequences of noncompliance.

During National Pharmacy Week, FAMU students also produce public service announcements, held brown bag drug counseling sessions, and staff booths on campus to provide information on disease states that disproportionately affect African-Americans.

The Association of Black Hospital Pharmacists (ABHP) has organized an interdisciplinary continuing education program to prepare pharmacists to offer pharmaceutical care for diabetes patients. The program will offer sessions on future trends in diabetes care, blood glucose self-monitoring, and implementing community-based diabetes care programs. The program will be held this month in Miami. ABHP plans to conduct a seminar on asthma management in the future.

For more information on ABHP and its programs, contact Margaret Peoples, Pharm.D., at (301) 918-2341. □

Newsletter Capsules

ASHP recently responded to two articles in the December 27 and 31 issues of the *New York Times* concerning a report released by the New York City Public Advocate's Office on the **cost-based inducements and penalties used by pharmacy benefit managers**. It is inappropriate for health professionals to accept financial incentives for selecting a specific brand.

ASHP recently took part in the **National Summit on Cancer Pain Control**. Summit participants requested that the Department of Health and Human Services identify unrelieved cancer pain as a public health crisis; declare the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research Cancer Pain Guidelines to be the standard of care; and work with organizations to educate professionals and the public that cancer pain can be treated.

ASHP Past President and former Chief Pharmacy Officer for the U.S. Public Health Service, **George Archambault**, has been honored with the Surgeon General's Medalion. He is only the sixth pharmacist to receive the award.

Donna Kraus, Pharm.D., represented ASHP at a national press conference October 7, 1996, kicking off HCFA's 1996 influenza and pneumonia prevention effort. □

Recent FDA Recalls

Recent recalls of interest to pharmacists include the following:

Class I

Albumin (Human) 5%, Alpine Biologics, lot 6.231.026.0—associated with multiple episodes of severe hypotension.

Class II

Albuterol Sulfate Syrup, UDL Laboratories, 1 mg/2.5 mL in oral syringes, lot 506004; 2 mg/5 mL in oral syringes, lot 506005; 2 mg/5 mL in UD 50s, lot 508023—microbial contamination.

Technetium Tc 99m Albumin Aggregated Injection, Medi-Physics, in multidose vials containing 2.5 mg albumin aggregated, 5.0 mg albumin human, 0.06 mg stannous chloride, and 1.2 mg sodium chloride; lots V-1298, V-1381, W-0069, W-0289—lack of adequate assurance of sterility of the human albumin component.

Trasylol (aprotinin) Injection, Bayer, in 200 mL vials, lots 6CCY, 6FAH, 6HAG—lack of adequate assurance of sterility.

Ultane (sevoflurane) Inhalation Anesthetic, Abbott, in 250 mL bottles, lot 10-590-DK—degrading into hydrogen fluoride and failing pH specification. □

Multivitamin Shortage

Members should be aware that there currently is a shortage of adult parenteral multivitamins. For more information, call the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition's Fax-on-Demand service at 1-800-905-77781 and request document #5010; or check out the FDA's Web site at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drnote.htm>.