

MSHP

Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Pharmacy Month

As another October has come and gone, many institutions throughout Mississippi and our nation have taken a week to stop and recognize the contributions that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians make to patient care. Many have celebrated with fine gifts, lunches, and even smoothie bars. MSHP would like to say thank you for your continued service, because we truly are "A Great Team for Mississippi Healthcare."



It's that time of year!

MSHP membership renewals for 2009 have been mailed out. Membership forms can be filled out online or sent in by mail. Visit the www.msshp.org for printable forms or online registration today!

University of Mississippi Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists Hold Student Driven Flu Clinic

In conjunction with National Pharmacy Week, on Saturday, October 25, members of the University of Mississippi Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists, in collaboration with Kroger Pharmacy, held a student led flu clinic. Students, who recently completed immunization training, volunteered their time and services to administer influenza



and pneumococcal vaccinations to patients of Flowood, MS under the supervision of trained pharmacists. Volunteers gained hands on experience in a patient care setting to further enhance their skills and aid in their professional development.

We would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their continued support. You will notice their logos throughout the newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE

December 7-11, 2008

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
Orlando, Florida

MSHP Board Meeting

Jackson Medical Mall
11:00 A.M.

December 8

ASHP MCM MSHP / School of
Pharmacy Reception
Peabody Orlando
Plaza A&B Room
5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

March 6-8, 2009

Pharmacy Alumni Weekend at
the Ole Miss School of
Pharmacy
Special reunion activities for
the classes of 1959, 1969,
1979, 1984, 1994, and 1999.



University of Mississippi Clinical Skills Competition winners:

1st place- Alex Quesenberry and Josh Swan

2nd place- Sam Bobo and Julie Strickland

3rd place- Terrell Boler and Amber Holdiness

Alex and Josh will represent the School of Pharmacy at the national competition at the ASHP Midyear meeting in Orlando.

Disaster Relief: Opportunities to Provide and Improve Healthcare

Kristen Ater, PharmD candidate; Debbie Minor, PharmD; Adam Pate, PharmD candidate; Amber Holdiness, PharmD candidate; and Jessica Bailey, PhD



While many medical facilities have existing emergency response plans for infectious disease epidemics, bioterrorism and mass trauma, little attention has focused on developing such plans for widespread natural disasters. After Hurricane Katrina destroyed the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2005, the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) was challenged with serving the medical needs of a large group of evacuees at a major American Red Cross shelter located near the campus. Much was learned from this experience, and we were able to use these lessons as we prepared for the ravages of Hurricane Gustav, almost exactly three years later.

After Hurricane Katrina, UMMC leaders discovered that American Red Cross evacuation shelters provide first aid for shelter residents, and defer all other medical care to community healthcare providers. To provide needed care for the evacuees and to conserve existing medical facilities for acutely injured individuals, free healthcare clinics were organized and staffed after both Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav at the largest local Red Cross evacuee shelter. This shelter provided a central location for these clinics as many of the evacuees lacked transportation or familiarity with the area. While the UMMC response after Hurricane Katrina was rapid, the need for more organized and developed plans was evident. The experience with Katrina challenged UMMC and others to develop policies for response in similar future disasters. These policies were vital in preparation for our response following Hurricane Gustav.

In contrast to the response following Katrina, we were better prepared initially to meet the needs of our Gustav evacuee population. An administrative and healthcare team led by a pharmacist assessed the needs of the shelter even before Hurricane Gustav made landfall. We immediately organized support, supplies and volunteers. Pharmacy students and residents were essential in this process, and our Disaster Relief Clinic was fully operational the following day.

The majority of patients seen in the Disaster Relief Clinics following both Katrina and Gustav had multiple medical problems, no medical insurance, and limited or no ability to purchase medications. Some evacuees needed acute medical care, though the greatest need was for maintenance medications and management of common chronic illnesses. We evaluated patients with diabetes, hypertension, chronic pain, dyslipidemia, HIV, and other disease states that require daily medications. The devastation with Gustav was not as great as with Katrina, and evacuees were able to return home sooner. The Katrina Disaster Relief Clinic saw 2,394 patients and filled 4,902 prescriptions over 17 days. After

Gustav, we saw 129 patients and provided 212 prescriptions over 3 days. More evacuees appeared prepared for their medical needs after Gustav than after Katrina; however, it was still surprising to see how many evacuees left home without medications.

Many of our activities during these experiences align clearly with objectives of ASHP's 2015 Health-System Initiative. Objectives of this initiative encourage pharmacists to be more involved in patient care and medication use. This was a change we made in our Gustav clinic. All patients seen in our Gustav Disaster Relief Clinic saw a pharmacist initially and at the final stop before clinic exit. Patients reviewed their current medications with a pharmacist when they entered the clinic. Pharmacists then performed physical assessments including blood pressure and blood glucose checks, took medical and medication histories, and provided triage for any further assessment needed. Pharmacists again worked with each patient prior to clinic exit to provide or determine the best source of medications and to ensure each patient had proper counseling and instructions.

The ASHP 2015 objectives also encourage departments in health systems to have "formal up-to-date emergency preparedness programs integrated with their health systems' and their communities' preparedness and response programs". Our ambulatory emergency preparedness program is designed to meet the needs of those who have been displaced and do not have easy access to medical care or medications. It is designed so that we can respond in collaboration with the American Red Cross, the Mississippi State Department of Health and our hospital administration, and be fully operational within hours of identifying the need for our services.

Consistent with the ASHP 2015 objectives, our experiences with Katrina and then Gustav have allowed us to help develop and refine procedures and further prepare for similar future disasters. With our Hurricane Gustav experience, we significantly improved our databases for patient tracking, policies for coordination, and timelines for response. Pharmacists were essential in all aspects of implementation, coordination, and caring for patients. With the help of our interdisciplinary volunteers and support of community pharmacists, we were able to meet the medical and pharmacy needs for all of our patients. Being a part of this ambulatory care team was a wonderful experience and allowed us to make a difference in the lives of so many people during a troubled time. At the same time, this was an incredible opportunity for pharmacists to advance their role in emergency preparedness programs and engage in public health initiatives.

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The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy Delta Pharmacy Patient Care Management Project

On July 1, the Department of Pharmacy Practice was awarded funding for a project that will partner School of Pharmacy faculty with community pharmacists in the Mississippi Delta. The project is supported by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration through the Delta Health Alliance. The Delta Pharmacy Patient Care Management Services project aims to improve medication use and health outcomes for Medicaid patients in Coahoma, Panola, and Yazoo counties.

This innovative project is right on target with the mission of the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy which is to improve the health of our state citizens as well as those of the nation and the world. The school seeks to fulfill this mission through its educational, research, and service programs. Our service programs include service to the public and service aimed at advancing the practice of pharmacy.

Dr. Leigh Ann Ross, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Chair of Pharmacy Practice, is the Principal Investigator of the project, and Dr. Lauren Bloodworth, Clinical Assistant Professor, serves as Program Administrator. Nine additional faculty members will be involved in some aspect of service implementation and the school's Center for Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management has partnered for evaluation of the clinical and economic impact of the new offerings.

Pharmacists in the program will provide one of two levels of service: generalized Medication Therapy Management (MTM) services, which will address issues of adherence to and appropriate use of all medications; or specialized, disease-specific MTM services in asthma and diabetes, which include patient education on self-management and recommendations to a primary care physician regarding medication adjustments. School of Pharmacy faculty will travel to eight pharmacies in these counties to provide the disease-specific patient care. Participating community pharmacists and faculty completed American Pharmacists Association Medication Therapy Management training offered by the School of Pharmacy to provide the first level of service. The MTM services will be offered beginning in October.

"The School of Pharmacy welcomes this opportunity to work more closely with pharmacists in the Mississippi Delta," said Ross. "Community pharmacists are qualified and positioned to improve health outcomes for patients in this underserved region, particularly the Medicaid population. We are hopeful that this project will further demonstrate the important contributions of pharmacists to the overall system of care."

According to Bloodworth, studies have shown MTM provided by pharmacists can cut health costs and improve health.

"Pharmacists are uniquely trained to provide direct patient care services that improve medication use and promote chronic disease management," said Bloodworth. "Community pharmacists are accessible, even in areas where physician care is limited. Successful implementation of a community pharmacy MTM model in an underserved region, such as the Mississippi Delta, would provide a strategy to address access to care, chronic disease management, and improvement of public health in rural areas throughout the United States."

A second objective of the study is to provide electronic health record (EHR) technology for a participating physician practice in each community. In addition to the traditional benefits observed when EHR is introduced to a practice setting, such as improved quality of care, the project pharmacists will be given access to the EHR to document the MTM or disease management encounters.

Patients eligible for generalized MTM must be taking two or more medications and have one or more chronic conditions other than asthma or diabetes. Patients will meet with their pharmacist on a regular basis to receive education and information to improve their use and understanding of their medications.

The following pharmacies and private practices are participating in the project:

- Medicap Pharmacy (Coahoma County)
- Henderson Drug and Home Health Center (Coahoma County)
- Fred's Pharmacy (Coahoma County)
- Metabolism Clinic at NWMRC (Coahoma County)
- Fred's Pharmacy (Panola County)
- Medicap Pharmacy (Panola County)
- Saverex Pharmacy (Panola County)
- Kroger Pharmacy (Panola County)
- Batesville Clinic (Panola County)
- Webb's Pharmacy (Yazoo County)
- Midtown Clinic (Yazoo County)

"We are excited about being a part of the Delta Pharmacy Patient Care Management Project," said Donna Heidel who is a pharmacist at Webb's Pharmacy in Yazoo County. "I am glad that our patients will have the opportunity to receive extra education on their medications to improve their outcomes. Everyone at Webb's Pharmacy is looking forward to working with the School of Pharmacy in enhancing the role of the community pharmacist."

Upon completion of the study, the school hopes to replicate the service in more community pharmacies throughout Mississippi to further demonstrate how community pharmacists can impact clinical and economic outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries.

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