



The Credential

The Mark of Excellence in Geriatric Care

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PROPOSED AMBULATORY CARE SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION; CALL FOR COMMENTS

CCGP's Board of Commissioners provided written comments to the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties' (BPS) regarding the petition to recognize ambulatory care as a new specialty practice. BPS was petitioned jointly by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in November 2008 to consider this specialty. Upon reviewing the documents provided by BPS, CCGP Chair Jane Huff noted, "While chronic conditions can occur at any age, the large majority of ambulatory patients who fit these descriptions are older adults, for whom the special skills of geriatric management are critical. A pharmacist may be knowledgeable about principles of pharmaceutical care or disease management, but the application of this knowledge to older adults requires a different set of skills and knowledge that goes beyond management of individual diseases."

With this in mind, CCGP and ASCP respectfully requested that BPS consider the following questions before approving the new specialty certification:

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CGPs CONVENE ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS



*Jane Huff, RPh, CGP
Chair 2009*

On November 19, 2008, nearly 100 Certified Geriatric Pharmacists (CGPs) gathered for the 11th Annual Meeting of the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy (CCGP). **Jane Huff**, RPh, CGP, chair of the Board of Commissioners, welcomed everyone, presented awards, announced outgoing and incoming board and committee members, and introduced speakers.

Huff introduced **Mary Ann Zagaria**, PharmD, MS, CGP, who is the 2008 recipient of CCGP's Excellence in Geriatric Pharmacy Practice Award. The award was officially presented earlier in the day at the opening general session of Senior Care Pharmacy '08, ASCP's 39th Annual Meeting and Exhibition.

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E-IMPACCT

ELDERLY IMPROVEMENTS & ADVANCES IN CHRONIC CONSTIPATION TREATMENT

www.ElderlyConstipation.org

DELAYED SCORING FOR RECENT CCGP EXAMINATIONS

For candidates taking the examination for certification in geriatric pharmacy in the months of January and February 2009, you may wonder why you have not yet received your score. When a new form of an examination is released to candidates, it includes new (never tested) items. After a specific number of candidates complete the examination, item statistics are reviewed to ensure the questions are performing as expected by the examination committee and in a psychometrically sound manner. Once the accuracy of the individual questions is verified, your final test score is calculated and the passing score of the new examination form is determined. At that point all January-February candidates will be sent a new score report with a pass or fail designation. Candidates scheduled for March 2009 and future testing windows will receive score reports with pass/fail designations when they complete the examination.

The Credential

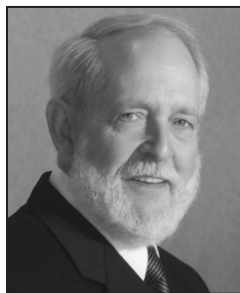
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A YEAR IN REVIEW FOR CCGP IN 2008



Wayne L. Atkinson,
RPh, NHA, CGP,
Immediate Past Chair

The Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy celebrated continued growth in its 11th year. In 1997, 100 pharmacists sat for the first exam in Philadelphia to demonstrate their competency as Certified Geriatric Pharmacists (CGPs). Since then, more than 1,800 pharmacists have earned this prestigious credential. Over the years CGPs have been increasingly sought after for their expertise in the unique medication-related needs of the elderly.

CGP numbers and influence continue to grow. This year close to 200 pharmacists became board certified and 150 CGPs recertified. CGPs report working in the community, in managed care organizations, in the Veterans Administration health system, in academia, and in the pharmaceutical industry. Roughly 40% work primarily in long-term care pharmacy and 18% work in hospital pharmacy. International growth continues also. Board-certified geriatric pharmacists practice in Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, and Sweden. In fact, thirteen pharmacists from Australia successfully passed the exam just this past September.

CCGP continues to promote the CGP credential as **the only board certification** for a pharmacist that demonstrates competence in geriatrics and geriatric pharmacotherapy, and is working to promote the credential in a variety of practice settings. A work group was formed this year to encourage assisted living communities to hire board-certified geriatric pharmacists. The work group developed a one-page document defining the value of the CGP in assisted living, and published it in the October issue of *The Credential*, CCGP's quarterly newsletter. Next steps include distributing this document to assisted living communities and developing a study to demonstrate the value of the Board-Certified Geriatric Pharmacist providing medication management services in assisted living communities.

On the managed care front, a work group of CGPs submitted a presentation for consideration at the annual meeting of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) in April 2009. This presentation would help educate managed care pharmacists and organizations on the special medication needs of the geriatric population, and the specialized knowledge of CGPs to address these issues. Recognizing this already, Humana committed to registering 20 pharmacist employees for the certification exam within the next year.

A third work group is developing outreach initiatives to promote the CGP credential to student pharmacists. This group will be working with schools of pharmacy to develop specialized pathways for students to seek board certification on an accelerated basis.

CCGP continues to make great strides to gain recognition for CGPs in the health care community. Board members discussed the critical success factors and strategies to foster growth and recognition of the credential. The Commission will continue its outreach to pharmacists currently practicing in geriatrics, to student pharmacists interested in pursuing careers in geriatrics, and to payers seeking credentialed pharmacists to provide services to seniors.

The statistics and implications of aging, medication-related problems, and the impact of pharmacists' interventions are well known. **CGPs can and do make a difference** in the lives of older adults. Learn more about the importance of board certification as part of your career path. Make a commitment to demonstrate your competence as a senior care pharmacist by seeking board certification in geriatric pharmacy.

Note: Excerpts of remarks by CCGP Chair Jane Huff on November 21, 2008, in New Orleans during a general session at Senior Care Pharmacy 08, ASCP's Annual Meeting and Exhibition.

53 PHARMACISTS ACHIEVE BOARD-CERTIFICATION ON GERIATRIC PHARMACY

Between October 1 and December 31, 2008, 53 pharmacists successfully completed the Certification Examination in Geriatric Pharmacy for the first time, or recertified by either re-taking the examination or completing the Professional Development Program (PDP). Of these 53, 15 recertified either by examination or the alternative pathway of a combination of live and on-line continuing education. Expanding the ranks of CGPs inherently helps CCGP to expose more organizations, employers, and other healthcare professionals to the value of the credential.

As the leading organization responsible for credentialing all pharmacists involved in geriatric care, Chair Jane Huff stated: "CCGP is very pleased to congratulate this specialized group of individuals who are clearly committed to appropriate care of seniors. As the elderly population continues to grow and as new medications for conditions of aging are developed, geriatric pharmacy is a specialty practice area that will become increasingly important."

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Carrie L. Allen
Emily M. Ambizas
Alberto H. Ambizas
Wayne L. Atkinson*
Kurt M. Benzine*
Laurie L. Brunner
Marquette L. Cannon-Babb
Winston C. Cho
Kerri L. Christian*
Rebecca J. DeCastro
Eric J. Donley*
Romilda Draper
Lien-Thi Duong
Mark D. Edwards*
Melanie L. Evans*

Kelly L. Flynn*
Rebecca M. Franklin
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Theresa M. Gerst
Jennifer Grabarczyk
Donna K. Harlow*
Pamela E. Haupt
Paul E. Herring*
Jonathan M. Hoover
Carmen A. Jacobs
Mark S. Jacobs
Christine S. Jump*
Helen Kim
Michael J. Koronkowski
Wit T. Lewandowski

Kathy R. Louie
Jason J. MacEwen
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Frank J. Mellina
Alisa K. Miller
Kimberlee S. Olfert
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Parisa N. Parvini
Stacey B. Rexrode
Polly G. Robinson*
Christopher J. Shea*
Todd A. Smith
Tobi L. Snyder
James M. Stokes

Maria M. Sulli
Keng Teng Tan
Journey Treacy
Dee F. Vallee
Teresa M. Veirs
Edyth A. Willard*
John A. Wind*
Loann M. Wong

*recertified

A complete directory of CGPs can be found at www.ccgp.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE CGP LIST SERVER?

Want to confer easily with your fellow CGPs? Then sign up for the CCGP list server. As an added benefit to CCGP certification, you can post messages that share your queries and thoughts on issues and concerns. This will help provide timely information and encourage a broader dialogue among you and your colleagues.

These three recent posts on the CGP list server sparked exchanges among multiple CGPs:

- "I am calculating a corrected phenytoin level on a patient with ESRD who receives dialysis 3x week. Does the dialysis affect this calculation in anyway?"
- "Can anyone please fill me in on what the standard of practice is in their SNF units regarding the handling/administration of ganciclovir, imuran, and 5-FU by "non-chemo" certified nurses, or even if these drugs are allowed to be administered at all in your SNF units. We are currently reevaluating our policy/procedures regarding handling/administration of these medications. Any help would be appreciated.
- Do any of your facilities currently use POC [point-of-care] testing for PT/INR? Do you have any pros/cons about this system?

Interested in networking like this among your peers? Join the CGP list server at <http://www.ccgp.org/pharmacist/listserve.htm>

AMBULATORY CARE SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

Continued from Page 1

- How will the patient population for this certification be defined and will the majority of that population be older persons?
- If so, how will the principles and practice of geriatric care be included in the certification process?
- How will this new credential complement the Certified Geriatric Pharmacist (CGP) credential?
- How will this new certification be communicated to the population that it intends to serve?
- How does this certification advance the profession in a way that consumers, caregivers, and purchasers of health care will understand its value?

The first open hearing to receive comments from the profession was held at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Orlando in December 2008. CCGP representatives attended that hearing. Two more open hearings are scheduled in April in conjunction with the APhA meeting in San Antonio (April 5) and the ACCP Spring Meeting in Orlando (April 26). CCGP will represent your interests at these hearings. We invite you to join us for these hearings and provide your comments.

After its own review of the petition and all comments received, BPS will determine whether to recognize Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice as a new specialty. This decision is expected in mid-2009. If it is approved, work will then begin on developing and implementing standards, eligibility criteria, and a psychometrically-sound examination process. A first exam in the Ambulatory Care specialty would not be available before 2010.

CCGP will continue to monitor the progress of the petition and keep you posted.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE COMMENTS AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN HEARINGS

- **Sunday, April 5, 2009**, in conjunction with the APhA2009 meeting in San Antonio, TX. The hearing will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in Grand Ballroom A at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, located at 101 Bowie Street, San Antonio.
- **Sunday, April 26, 2009** in conjunction with the ACCP Spring meeting in Orlando, FL. The hearing will take place from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 313 in the West Building of the Orange County Convention Center, located at 9800 International Drive, Orlando.

Additional comments will also be accepted by BPS at the following addresses only:

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties
ATTENTION: Ambulatory Care Comment
1100 15th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Or by e-mail to: BPSAmbCare@aphanet.org

Copies of the petition and its supporting appendices are available for download from the BPS website at www.bpsweb.org.

CGP PUBLISHED IN LITERATURE

Tom Lackner, a board-certified geriatric pharmacist (CGP) since its inception in 1997 and who now serves on the Board of Commissioners as Vice Chairman, has recently published first research on the safety of controlled-release oxybutynin in nursing home residents with dementia. Lackner also has published the results of a study on carbamazepine kinetics in nursing facility residents, and a case report and review of amiodarone-induced central nervous system toxicity. The specific articles are:

Lackner TE, Wyman JF, McCarthy TC, Monigold M, Davey C. Randomized, placebo-controlled trial of the cognitive effect, safety and tolerability of oral extended-release oxybutynin in cognitively impaired nursing home residents with overactive bladder. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2008;56:862-70.

Birnbaum AK, Conway JM, Hardie NA, Lackner TE, Bowers SE, Leppik IE. Carbamazepine dose-concentration relationship in elderly nursing home residents. *Epilepsy Res* 2007;77:31-5.

Bahr J, Lackner T, Pacala JT. Amiodarone-induced central nervous system toxicity in the frail geriatric patient: A case report and review of the literature. *Ann Long-Term Care* 2008;16:37-40.

Continued from Page 1

The award recognizes a CGP who fosters the principles of good pharmacy practice; demonstrates excellence in geriatric patient care; and promotes the value and rigorous standards established by CCGP. A CGP since 1999, Zagaria is an independent clinical pharmacist, author, and educator. She practices as a senior care medication specialist serving seniors residing in the community, long-term care, and rehabilitation facilities.

Harvey Maldow, RPh, MS (Princeton, NJ) received a special recognition award and honorary CGP in grateful appreciation for his long-standing partnership and service to CCGP when Pharmacy Affairs Manager of AstraZeneca. Both professionally and personally, Maldow promoted the value of the CGP credential and supported the goals and work of CCGP. AstraZeneca was the long-term sponsor of the Excellence in Geriatric Pharmacy Practice Award, CCGP's meetings, and the CCGP web site. Maldow is currently the chief executive officer of the New Jersey Pharmacists Association.

Tracey Pierce, RPh, CGP, FASCP (Findlay, OH) received the Commitment to Alzheimer's Recognition of Excellence (CARE) Pharmacy Award, sponsored by Eisai Inc. in coordination with the Alzheimer's Association. This CARE Award recognizes a pharmacist who has been nominated by a person with Alzheimer's disease or a caregiver for his or her exceptional impact on the lives of those fighting this disease. Pierce is a hospital clinical pharmacist, and a preceptor and associate clinical professor at Ohio Northern University College of Pharmacy. The award was presented to Pierce by Sean Spears, Senior Director of Trade Relations at Eisai.

Huff expressed the Commission's grateful appreciation to **Bill Simonson**, PharmD, CGP, FASCP, (Suffolk, VA) for his 5 years of outstanding and dedicated service on the Board of Commissioners of CCGP, including serving in every officer position.



Chair Jane Huff (left) presents award to Mary Ann Zagaria (right)



Harvey Maldow receives plaque from Chair Jane Huff

Diane Crutchfield, PharmD, CGP, FASCP, (Knoxville, TN) and **Ken Tuell**, RPh, CGP, (Cramerton, NC) were introduced. Crutchfield was recently elected by the Board to a three-term year of Pharmacist Member. Crutchfield has her own independent consultant pharmacy practice. Tuell was appointed to fill the vacant position (expires 11/09) for Payer Member on the Board of Commissioners. Tuell is Medicare Pharmacy Regional Consultant with Humana, Inc.

Huff thanked outgoing Examination Development Committee (EDC) members **Greg D'Amour**, PharmD, CGP (Truth or Consequences, NM), **Sharon Kennedy-Norris**, PharmD, CGP (Huntington, WV), and **Kirsten Fanning Parker**, PharmD, BCPS, CGP (Bradenton, FL), for their 6+



Sean Spears, senior director, Trade Relations, Eisai Inc. presents the 2008 CARE Pharmacy Award to Tracey Pierce. John Feather, ASCP executive director/CEO, joins them.



Outgoing Commissioner Bill Simonson receives plaque from Chair Jane Huff

years of service to CCGP. The work of the EDC is to develop CGP test items according to psychometric standards. In addition, these outgoing EDC members also completed the recent 5-year practice analysis and revision of the exam's content map. Incoming EDC members appointed to serve 3-year terms were also announced: **Micah Sobota**, PharmD, CGP (Lima, OH), **Keith Swanson**, PharmD, CGP (Oklahoma City, OK), and **Sharon Vire**, PharmD, CGP (North Little Rock, AR).

Claudia Schlosberg, JD, ASCP's Director of Policy & Advocacy, reviewed Campaign 2011, a multifaceted initiative designed to raise awareness of medication-related problems in the elderly and improve appropriate, safe, and effective medication use by increasing access to pharmacist-provided medication therapy management. ASCP's goal is to engage pharmacists – including CGPs —and other health care professionals, empower consumers and caregivers, and educate stakeholders and policymakers. For more information, visit www.ascp.com/campaign2011

Huff also thanked **Eisai** for sponsoring the networking social for CGPs held at the conclusion of the CCGP official program.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT BOARD MEETINGS

The CCGP Board of Commissioners met via conference call on November 13, 2008, and January 15, 2009, to tend to the governance, planning, and oversight needs of the Commission. Highlights were:

- Approved the 2009 budget, including an additional \$10,000 for marketing and development
- Elected Ken Tuell, CGP, to fill a vacant position on the Board of Commissioners representing a payor representative. Tuell, who works for Humana, will fill the remainder of the 2006-2009 term previously held by Mike Anderson, RPh, United Health Care.
- Elected Diane Crutchfield, CGP, to a Pharmacist Member position on the Board of Commissioners. Crutchfield will serve a three-year term, November 2008 - November 2011.
- Elected CGPs Micah Sobota, Keith Swanson, and Sharon Vire to serve three-year terms on the Examination Development Committee, January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011.
- Elected Commissioner Eldon Armstrong to serve as Secretary/Treasurer of CCGP; and advanced Tom Lackner to Vice Chair, Wayne Atkinson to Immediate Past President, and Jane Huff to Chair, all effective November 19, 2008.
- Approved a pilot program at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy to prepare pharmacy students to take the CGP exam after one year of experience rather than two years.
- Changed CCGP's fiscal year from the calendar year to October 1 – September 30
- Established a subcommittee to explore CCGP's response to the BPS petition submitted by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) for an Ambulatory Care Specialist Pharmacist: Diane Crutchfield, Jane Huff, Diane Tobias, and Ken Tuell.

CGPs RECEIVE ASCP AWARDS



Robert R. Warnock, PharmD, CGP, FASCP, vice president of Pharmacy Services at Golden Clinical Services, LLC., Fort Smith, Arkansas, received ASCP's 2008 Richard S. Berman Service Award. Named in honor of ASCP's first president, this award has been conferred annually since 1979 to

recognize a member of the Society who has made significant and sustained contributions to consultant pharmacy and the goals and activities of ASCP.



David R. P. Guay, PharmD, CGP, FASCP, received the Archambault Award, ASCP's highest honor, conferred in recognition of outstanding contributions to consultant and senior care pharmacy. Guay is a clinical pharmacist in geriatrics at Partnering Care Senior Services, HealthPartners, Inc., in

Minneapolis, and a tenured professor at the College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota. He was honored for his exemplary performance as a professional consultant pharmacist, with more than 20 years of commitment to the practice of senior care pharmacy.



Annie Lam, PharmD, CGP (Seattle, WA) and **Sacha Rivera-Sárate**, PharmD, CGP (Puerto Rico) received the ASCP Foundation Practice Innovation Awards. Lam is Senior Lecturer at the University of Washington School of Pharmacy. The school collaborated with a congregate

meal site to implement a blood pressure monitoring program, provide medication reviews, and increase hypertension awareness among the underserved, non-English speaking, senior Asian population in the greater Seattle metropolitan area. Rivera-Sárate is Associate Professor at the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy. The school trains community pharmacists to educate Hispanic older adults and their caregivers about medications to improve knowledge, compliance, and satisfaction with pharmacist services. The award sponsored by sanofi-aventis. The award is sponsored by sanofi~aventis.

DATES TO REMEMBER AND OPTIONS TO RECERTIFY

2009 Registration Deadlines to take the CGP Exam

- Register by April 30 to take the exam by May 31, 2009.
- Register by July 31 to take the exam by August 30, 2009.
- Register by October 31, 2009, to take the exam by November 30, 2009.

Computer-based exams will be administered exclusively in 2009. Due to so few candidates for the paper-based exam coupled with rising costs for its administration, the paper-based exam is no longer offered.

Two Options to Recertify

CCGP requires all Certified Geriatric Pharmacists (CGPs) to recertify every five years. Recertification assures the public and the profession that CCGP-certified pharmacists undergo periodic evaluation to verify that their knowledge and skills are maintained at a level comparable to newly Certified Geriatric Pharmacists.

To recertify, an individual must be licensed to practice pharmacy and successfully complete one of two methods:

1. Achieve a passing score on the multiple-choice, 150-question CCGP Certification Examination; or
2. Earn 75 continuing education hours over five years through the Professional Development Program (PDP) for CGP Recertification. CCGP has designated the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) as the exclusive provider of the PDP for CGP Recertification. This program's content is directly related to the content map from which the exam questions are developed. In addition to the online study at GeriatricPharmacyReview.com, you are required to complete two live workshops: "Clinical Update for the Geriatric Pharmacist" and "Geriatric Assessment for the Senior Care Pharmacist." For a description of these courses visit <http://www.ascp.com/education/certification/> and scroll down to the recertification section.

CGP-PDP Workshop Information for 2009

Clinical Update for the Geriatric Pharmacist Workshop

May 6, 2009, Orlando, FL, in conjunction with ASCP's Midyear Meeting and Exhibition
<http://ascp.com/education/meetings/clinicalupdateworkshop.cfm>

Geriatric Assessment for the Senior Care Pharmacist Workshop

May 9-10, 2009, Orlando, FL, in conjunction with ASCP's Midyear Meeting and Exhibition
<http://ascp.com/education/meetings/geriatricassessment.cfm>

Class Sizes are Limited, so Register Today!

For more information, visit www.ascp.com/education or call (703) 739-1300.



Workshop attendees at a recent Geriatric Assessment for the Senior Care Pharmacist

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