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OUPharmacy.com

From the Dean

Dear Friends:

Our revised web site has now been available for approximately three months and we have recently generated the first quarterly report of activity on the site. The statistics are impressive, indicating substantial interest in our site and providing guides for future improvement.

The total number of unique visitors to the site in the first quarter was 9,659 and the average length of time per visit was 23 minutes and 16 seconds. The pages most frequently viewed have been related to admission to the Doctor of Pharmacy program, the centennial history of the college, and poison prevention. The distribution of visits to the site was spread evenly throughout each week with no special preference for a particular day, but the most active time of each day was between 4 and 7 pm local time when approximately 30% of the daily visits occurred.

As expected, traffic increased from beginning to end of the quarter as more and more people became aware of the new site. The "visitor-minutes" (the total number of minutes the site was viewed by all visitors) rose progressively from 8,823 to 41,424 between the first and last week of the monitoring period.

It is especially gratifying to see the increasing use of our site. It was built to be attractive, interactive, educational, and, above all, useful. We rely a great deal on receiving your questions, comments, and suggestions to provide information about your needs and ways in which we might improve our site. Your support is very much appreciated. I hope that you will continue to help us spread the word about our website by inviting your friends to visit and subscribe to this e-News.

The most recent live discussion was a very successful event. Interest in this venue as a means of sharing information appears to be increasing and we will schedule another in the upcoming future. Look for the announcement in the college news section. Meanwhile, you are welcome to view the archived discussions at <http://pharmacy.ouhsc.edu/pharmcomm/discuss/> for a look at what to expect.

Sincerely,

College News

▪ New Baby Medina



Patrick and Melissa Medina are the proud parents of a baby girl, Madeline Emma, born at 7:31 a.m on Saturday, October 6th. Madeline weighed 7lbs., 13oz., and is 18 inches long. Melissa and family are home and doing well.



Alumni News

▪ Congratulations Dedra Classen ('93)

Dedra, Dow, and big brother Logan welcomed baby sister London Taylor into the world on August 27, 2001. Classmates and friends are welcome to communicate with Dedra at dedra.classen@walgreens.com. Congratulations and best wishes to the Classen family.

▪ Robin Thomas ('97, '00) Back in OKC

Robin reports that he is back in Oklahoma City and working at Deaconess Hospital. Classmates and friends are welcome to touch base with Robin at ThaPie@aol.com. Welcome back Robin!

▪ To Class of '77 from Lou Ann

Two years in Norman, one in OKC.....Meeting at the corner of 13th and Phillips in Oklahoma City for class enrollment.....classes in houses.....concrete and parking lots.....150+ classmates.....the first pharmacy class to graduate from the OUHSC campus in OKC....

If these are your memories of the Class of '77, it is time to return to the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy!! Yes, dear classmates, it has really been 25 years since we were anticipating graduation - and things have REALLY changed on the Health Sciences Campus. You are invited to return to OU the weekend of April 12, 2002 to renew friendships and see how much your classmates have changed. Our class will be recognized at the annual Pharmacy Day Banquet and we will have the opportunity to show the new faculty and students what an outstanding class we were! Plans include a gathering at Lou Ann (Pybas) Hughes' home - yes, where we had our last class party - and opportunities to see how OKC has changed (including the National OKC Bombing Memorial and Bricktown). Please contact Lou Ann Hughes at louann-hughes@ouhsc.edu or hughesrx@swbell.net for more information.

Pharmacy News

▪ CDC Has Anthrax, Smallpox Vaccination Guidelines Available

Vaccination against anthrax and smallpox, two diseases seen as possible biological warfare threats, was the subject of reports released in the past year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. CDC's guidelines, which predate the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York and at the Pentagon, do not recommend preventive vaccination of the general population against anthrax or smallpox.

<http://www.ashp.org/public/news/breaking/ShowArticle.cfm?id=2606>

▪ Disaster Readiness Material Issued by AHA

The American Hospital Association (AHA) has issued a four-part "Disaster Readiness Advisory" to help hospitals plan their responses to disasters. A new "Chemical and Bioterrorism Preparedness Checklist," containing a section on pharmaceuticals and equipment, has replaced the one issued two and a half weeks ago. The Advisory is available at <http://www.aha.org/Emergency/Readiness/MaDisasterB1003.asp> and a downloadable checklist at <http://www.aha.org/Emergency/Content/MaAtChecklistB1003.doc>.

▪ APhA Bioterrorism Web Site

The [American Pharmaceutical Association](http://www.aphanet.org) (APhA) has created a Pharmacist Response Center to provide pharmacists with access to information that can help them respond to the needs of their community, patients, and family members. The site can be found at <http://www.aphanet.org/pharmcare/responsecenter.htm>.

▪ APhA Statement on Bioterrorism

The following statement by the [American Pharmaceutical Association](http://www.aphanet.org) (APhA) was delivered at a hearing on "The Threat of Bioterrorism" held by the Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Subcommittee of the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, October 3, 2001:

The American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA), the national professional society of pharmacists, is pleased that the Committee is addressing the important issue of bioterrorism and ways to prepare for and provide a response to a biological or chemical terrorist attack. APhA is the first established and largest professional association of pharmacists in the United States. APhA's 50,000 members include practicing pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, pharmacy students, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in advancing the profession. Pharmacy is the third largest health profession in America. The Association is extremely proud of the role our pharmacist members played in meeting the needs of individuals who, in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, were stranded away from home or working on rescue efforts and were in need of medications or other healthcare needs.

The roots of pharmacy's involvement with public health initiatives go back well over a century. Pharmacists have served as local, decentralized extenders of public health departments, playing a major role in the distribution and administration of vital vaccines, medications, supplies and health care services (Pharmacy in History, American Institute of the History of Pharmacy; Vol. 41, pgs. 137-149, 1999). The nation's pharmacists have demonstrated a serious commitment to preventing disease and stand ready to serve the needs of our nation in the event of a biological or chemical attack. Indeed, the profession recognizes the deadly threat that an attack of this nature would pose with the population of our nation at risk of fatal infection with little notice. When an attack occurs, time will be short to mount a preventive program to preserve the public's health. Pharmacists' accessibility in every community provides an excellent opportunity to reach individuals in need of preventive care, healthcare services, medications and supplies, vaccines, and information. Pharmacists want to actively participate in whatever response or preventive plan is implemented, and are available to assist in preparedness efforts and response to bioterrorism. APhA pledges its services and communications vehicles to help mobilize this vital resource.

Pharmacists' contributions to such efforts can include:

- Monitoring for and surveillance of signs and symptoms of a possible biological or chemical attack. Pharmacists are a trusted source of health care information for the public. Patients often seek the advice of pharmacists, even before going to a physician, when they require health information. The initial symptoms presented by several potential biological agents that could be utilized against our citizenry resemble those of the flu. Many patients may attempt to self medicate and will seek a remedy from their local pharmacy shelf before going to the physician's office or hospital. As one of the most accessible health care professionals, pharmacists are in an excellent position to assist in monitoring any patterns of symptoms or diseases reported by patients. Pharmacists' involvement in this area can help to serve as an early warning that a bioterrorism attack has occurred.
- The pharmacist is an expert in medication use, both prescription and over-the-counter. This expertise is invaluable in determining which pharmaceuticals should be stored and which can be used as second and third line agents if the supply of first line agents is limited.

The resources and talents of the nation's pharmacists may be extended beyond dispensing necessary medications and working with patients to make those medications work. For example, pharmacists in 31 states may administer vaccines and provide general support for immunization programs. There is substantial evidence that pharmacists are readily accessible, trusted professionals who can motivate the public to be vaccinated and enhance vaccine delivery. These capabilities will be helpful in a national infectious disease emergency. Here are some of the practical ways pharmacists could help:

- Community pharmacists at more than 52,000 neighborhood pharmacies can educate the public and, in 31 states, actually immunize them. In many rural areas, a pharmacist is the only health professional conveniently located to patients. The nation's community pharmacies could serve as 52,000 bases of operation and communication for immunization programs coordinated by state health departments.
- Pharmacists in hospitals and other health systems can educate, motivate, support, and immunize inpatients and outpatients in these settings. As medication experts, pharmacists link the clinical, logistic, and administrative functions of hospitals and health systems.
- Consultant pharmacists can enhance immunization delivery to residents of nursing homes and other institutions. Consultant pharmacists review residents' drug regimens monthly and are already integral contributors to health quality in these settings.



Pharmacists are trained to take any of three roles in support of the national preparedness plan. These three roles are:

- **Motivating:** Pharmacists can distribute literature, display posters, perform one-on-one counseling, speak to local civic groups, and similar activities. Scientific studies demonstrate that 50% to 94% of the people to whom a pharmacist recommends immunization accept this recommendation. In the confusion and uncertainty possible in any national immunization campaign, pharmacists can be voices of reason and sources of factual information and advice.
- **Hosting:** In 1997, more than 5 million doses of influenza vaccine were administered at more than 15,000 pharmacies across the country, more than one-quarter of all pharmacies. Even in the pharmacies where pharmacists are not yet trained to immunize, nurses or other vaccine providers could administer vaccines or establish vaccine supply depots. These sites are equipped to store refrigerated medications, are widely dispersed in urban, suburban, and rural settings, near population centers of diverse sizes. Most are open long hours and have large parking lots that could accommodate large patient flows. Further, given that more than 95% of pharmacies already have electronic communications capabilities, pharmacies could serve as communication centers for sending and receiving instructions and data between state health authorities and field workers during a pandemic. In addition, pharmacists can serve as information resources to consumers, media, and other health care professionals.
- **Immunizing:** Estimates are that there are currently more than 3,000 immunizing pharmacists, delivering more than 300,000 doses of vaccine to adults during recent flu seasons. Pharmacists are authorized to administer drugs in 31 states, corresponding to a population of over 135 million people. Additional states are considering empowering pharmacists with this authority to advance the public health. Pharmacists could be enlisted to administer vaccine dose(s) during bioterrorism events, reporting to state authorities, as well as providing areas for vaccine and medication storage and distribution.

APhA has made available to its members educational programming focusing on bioterrorism at Association annual meetings. Additionally, a bioterrorism resource center located on [APhA's homepage](#) was developed to assist pharmacists and consumers with education about and preparing for a bioterrorism attack.

All of these actions will be greatly facilitated by having Congress express interest in including the nation's pharmacists in plans to defend the nation against these threats.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue. The American Pharmaceutical Association and its members stand ready to assist the government in any way possible to prepare for and respond to bioterrorism.

▪ **Flu Vaccine Shipped; CDC Offers Tools**

Aventis Pasteur announced recently that it anticipated shipping influenza vaccine to all of its customers by the end of September, with smaller customers receiving their entire vaccine order. Larger customers, such as resellers and distributors, will receive about 25 percent of their order in September with the balance to be shipped in October and November. The company plans to ship all orders for influenza vaccine before the end of November.

Related to flu immunizations, the National Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control has made available a portfolio of patient-education materials for this flu season that carries the theme, Fight the Flu! Included in the portfolio are two posters, four flyers, and buttons for health care providers. All of the materials are available in both English and Spanish on the CDC immunization website. The materials, along with the most current information about the 2001-02 flu season, are posted at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/flu/print-materials.htm>.

▪ **Administration Has Not Filed Appeal**

Despite reports that the administration plans to appeal a federal court injunction temporarily halting implementation of its Medicare prescription discount card, the administration has yet to file such an appeal, according to the [National Community Pharmacists Association](#) (NCPA).

"Although CMS Administrator Tom Scully announced that the administration will appeal Judge Friedman's injunction of HHS's Medicare prescription card, the fact is no appeal has been filed," said NCPA General Counsel John Rector. "These decisions are made by the Justice Department, which has until November 6 to decide whether or not to appeal."

Continuing Pharmaceutical Education News

▪ OU Partners with NCPA

The Office of Continuing Pharmaceutical Education in the OU College of Pharmacy is working with NCPA's [National Institute for Pharmacist Care Outcomes](#) (NIPCO) to create a Men's Health Care Program for implementation in community pharmacies.

The program, aided by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer, Inc., will consist of four key components. The first is a Men's Health Risk Assessment Tool. The tool will be a survey administered by community pharmacists in the pharmacy setting. Pharmacists will evaluate the surveys and make recommendations for follow-up care with a physician based on the patient's survey score.

The Outcomes Study will follow approximately 400 patients in 20 community pharmacies across the nation. Central to the program will be the creation of a NIPCO-accredited Men's Health Certificate Program. The program will provide community pharmacists with the education needed to implement a Men's Health Care Program in their pharmacy.

The fourth component of the program, to be launched at NCPA's Annual Convention in October, will be a community pharmacy-based educational outreach program to consumers.

Oklahoma Poison Control Center News

▪ Mold May Affect Your Health

Mold can grow naturally anywhere there is moisture and can be especially troublesome when it affects a person's health. Potential health concerns are an important reason to find out how to prevent mold growth and if found, how to clean up any existing indoor mold growth.

Mold exposure in the home usually does not always cause health problems, however, some people are more sensitive than others. "Sensitive people may experience symptoms such as nasal stuffiness, eye irritation or wheezing if exposed to molds," explained Lee McGoodwin, managing director of the Oklahoma Poison Control Center. The Oklahoma Poison Control Center is a program of The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy and the Children's Hospital of OU MEDICAL CENTER.

McGoodwin pointed out that there are many different kinds of molds that may affect a person's health, however the causal links between the presence of the toxic mold and major health conditions have not been proven. "There are very few case reports of toxic molds, for example the black mold or *Stachybotrys*, causing major health conditions like pulmonary damage."

"Most people call about skin rashes, itchiness, runny nose, sneezing, itchy and watery eyes, or difficulty breathing. Apparently, symptoms depend on the type of mold, the extent of the exposure, the persons age and existing sensitivities or allergies." McGoodwin explained, "People with asthma may experience worsening of symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest tightness, coughing, and decreased exercise tolerance." People experiencing these symptoms should contact their physicians right away. Persons who are immune compromised may be more vulnerable to infections related to molds.

If you find mold in your home and what to have it tested, contact a certified industrial hygienist. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has guidelines about how to remove mold from your home, depending on where it is growing. A large amount of mold may require the help of a professional who has experience in cleaning mold in buildings and homes. Look up "mold remediation" in the yellow pages for a listing of companies that can help you. Moisture control is the key to controlling mold.

According to the EPA, some things people can do to prevent mold growth include:

- Repair sources of leaks in and around the house
- Keep heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning drip pans clean and flowing properly
- Clean and dry wet or damp spots within 48 hours.

Go to the Environment Protection Agency's website for more information or details on mold prevention and cleaning methods <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/toc.html>.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that conditions causing mold, like water leaks, condensation, infiltration, or flooding, be corrected to prevent mold from growing. Other recommendations from CDC include:

- Keep humidity level in house below 50%
- Use air conditioner or dehumidifier during humid months
- Be sure home has adequate ventilation, including exhaust fans in kitchen and bathrooms
- Use mold inhibitors which can be added to paints
- Clean bathroom with mold killing products
- Do not carpet bathrooms
- Remove and replace flooded carpets

CDC has a fact sheet at <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/asthma/factsheets/molds/default.htm>. If you think you are experiencing health problems related to mold, contact your physician.

OUPharmTECH News

- **Industry Links – A New Category at OUPharmLINK**

[OUPharmLINK](#) is intended to keep faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends abreast of web-based information that is both timely and relevant to the pharmacy profession as well as to all elements of the College of Pharmacy.

OUPharmTECH has recently added a new category, Industry Links. "[Industry Links](#)" is a site for pharmaceutical companies web addresses, and related company information. Interested companies can e-mail OUPharmTECH@ouhsc.edu for placement details.

Job Openings

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy

- Pharmacy Technician
- Pharmacy Technician
- Clinical Pharmacist
- Assistant/Associate Professor
- Research Assistant I or II

Eckerd Drug Company

- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy Technician

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

- Staff Pharmacist