



ASHP Foundation News Release

ASHP Foundation Announces 2017-2018 New Investigator Research Grant Recipients *Funding supports studies focused on the use of technology to identify patient interventions in an ambulatory care environment and critical role of pharmacists in COPD treatment*

BETHESDA, MD (November 15, 2017) -- The ASHP Research and Education Foundation awarded funding to two new investigators studying pharmacy practice advances through the 2017-2018 [New Investigator Research Grant Program](#).

The ASHP Foundation New Investigator Research Grant allows new investigators to develop and evaluate innovative practice models that could expand pharmacists' contributions to patient care. This research grant program supports practice-based research conducted by pharmacist in the early stages of their career, advance new investigators' research skill set, and help grantees develop mentoring relationships with experienced senior investigators.

"Once again, this year's grant recipients developed research projects that further clarify the benefit of pharmacists in areas of clinical practice that are contemporary, innovative, and relevant," said review panelist Kimberly Daugherty, Pharm.D., BCPS, professor and assistant dean of Academic Affairs and Assessment at Sullivan University College of Pharmacy. "While the projects funded this year have different focuses, both have the potential to lead to expanded pharmacy services that will benefit not only high-risk patients but also the health systems involved."

Each grantee was awarded up to \$20,000. The funded studies and grantees are:

Assessment of the Ability of a Web-Based Application that Incorporates Elements of Gamification to Identify Opportunities for Healthcare Intervention in an Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Clinic Setting

New Investigator: Courtney E. Gamston, Pharm.D., Sc.M., BCPS

Senior Investigator: Kimberly B. Lloyd, Pharm.D.

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
Auburn, AL

"The goal of this study is to take advantage of the time patients spend in the waiting room to gather pertinent patient information that can be used to consistently and efficiently identify opportunities for intervention," said Dr. Gamston. She hopes to use elements of gamification to collect additional information that will help identify these opportunities.

Originally, Dr. Gamston hoped to screen individuals who may need prediabetes or diabetes testing while they waited for the medications in a community pharmacy setting or for their appointment in an

ambulatory care clinic setting. “I quickly realized that I needed a way to collect additional information not housed in the regular patient information forms and that I needed a way to engage patients so that they would provide this additional information,” said Dr. Gamston. As she continued to contemplate the idea, Dr. Gamston realized that she didn’t have to stop with diabetes. “Why not incorporate more disease states and conditions and increase our ability to identify interventions that can improve the care we give to our patients?” Dr. Gamston believes that by developing a tool to help identify intervention opportunities institutions “can improve the consistency of identification of patient needs and, therefore, improve patient care.”

As a junior faculty member, Dr. Gamston hasn’t seen many opportunities like ASHP Foundation’s New Investigator Research Grant Program and is grateful for this opportunity. “It is very difficult to garner funding for a fledgling research program as a junior investigator – especially one with a limited publication history. Grants like this give junior investigators the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and to collect valuable pilot data that will serve as the building blocks for their future research.”

The Impact of the Implementation of a Pharmacist-Driven Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Management Program

New Investigator: Sarah Petite, Pharm.D., BCPS

Senior Investigator: Julie Murphy, Pharm.D., BCPS, FASHP, FCCP

University of Toledo

Toledo, OH

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) impacts many of the patients Dr. Petite cares for every day. “In my practice, I observe many patients being readmitted with a repeat COPD exacerbation shortly after hospital discharge,” said Dr. Petite. During this study, she will evaluate patients admitted to a non-intensive care unit setting with a COPD exacerbation. “The objective of this study is to determine the change in hospital length of stay (LOS), improvement in time to next COPD-related hospitalization and maintenance medication management for COPD before and after implementing a pharmacist-driven COPD exacerbation management program.”

“The benefit of a pharmacist intervention on clinical outcomes for patients with a COPD exacerbation has not been well studied.” Dr. Petite hopes that the results of this study will illustrate the impact a pharmacist intervention can have on hospital LOS for COPD exacerbation. “This study will help establish the role of a pharmacist in both the inpatient and outpatient settings and illustrate the need for pharmacist involvement during the critical transition of care from hospital discharge to home,” said Dr. Petite.

Dr. Petite is looking forward to working with an experienced senior investigator and developing her skills as a researcher through the mentorship and feedback she receives. “These grants are important for two reasons. First, mentored new investigator grants are vital to developing the next generation of independent pharmacist researchers. Second, the work completed through pharmacy practice research is vital for practice advancement,” said Dr. Petite.

For More Information

Information about the New Investigator Research Grant Program and the abstracts of the research studies funded by this year's program can be found at www.ashpfoundation.org/NewInvestigatorGrantees.

About the ASHP Foundation

The ASHP Research and Education Foundation (www.ashpfoundation.org) was established in 1968 by the ASHP (www.ashp.org) as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. As the philanthropic arm of ASHP, our vision is that patient outcomes improve because of the leadership and clinical skills of pharmacists, as vital members of the healthcare team, accountable for safe and effective medication use. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of patients through appropriate, safe, and effective medication use.

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