

## Message From the President



Welcome to another exciting year for AMCP at UIC. As reigning national Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) champions, our chapter will be more than ever in the spotlight as we lead the charge with THE pharmacy issue of the year - Medicare Part D. I'm lucky to find myself surrounded by a motivated and creative executive board, ready to bring you a year packed with educational seminars, social events, national conferences, field trips, interactive forums, and a P&T Competition that will knock your socks off.

P1s, P2s and P3s, this is the time to explore the different arenas of pharmacy, topics and issues that will directly affect your practice – no matter the setting. We have assembled a stellar line-up of guest speakers (many of whom are UIC graduates) from a variety of pharmacy settings, including the UIC Medical Center, PBMs, drug manufacturers, consulting, and government. In addition to our guests, students will have the chance to sharpen their presentation skills with journal clubs, a forum on P4 managed care rotations, and a Novartis® Pharmaceuticals sponsored student research project on how different areas of pharmacy practice are preparing for Medicare Part D (aka Medicare Modernization Act).

Speaking of Medicare Part D, AMCP will be front and center helping to organize Pharmacy Enrichment Day at the COP on November 14. The meeting will focus on the act itself and how the UIC Medical Center will provide related services. Medicare Part D was also the main theme when we attended the Educational Conference in Nashville, TN. The Managed Care Pharmacy Residency Showcase, Grand Ole Opry, hospitality suites, and the “Pipeline” session made for a memorable experience... yee-haw!

I strongly encourage all students to attend our Thursday meetings in room 134-3 to see what AMCP has to offer. You can also check out what our chapter is doing by going to [www.uicamcp.org](http://www.uicamcp.org). With so much going on, this year promises to be fascinating, educational, and a lot of fun. Get involved and enjoy your year in school.

Rob Wittenberg

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# Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition

By Chris Hollman

After winning the national competition at AMCP's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Showcase in Denver, CO last April, the UIC Student chapter of AMCP is again proud to be sponsoring the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition (P&T) at the UIC College of Pharmacy. So what *is* the P&T and what is in it for you? Read on.

## What is the P&T Competition?

The P&T competition consists of teams of four students, typically a P1, P2, P3, and then one student from any class (ideally a P4, but due to rotations, their participation is often limited) who will work on a "real life" managed care case over a four-week period at the beginning of the second semester. Teams will then work through the case and submit the required written materials (typically some sort of ~10 page evaluation, a 2 page executive summary, etc.) and prepare a 20-30 minute presentation for competition day. Teams will then be judged based on the merits of their written materials and presentation, with the winning team having their written material submitted to AMCP for consideration in the national competition next April.

## What's in it for me?

**Three credits.** All students whose teams submit all the required materials for the case and complete their presentation on competition day will be given 3 credits through Dr. Salmon as a 380/390 course. If you are a P1 or a P2, this is the perfect opportunity to get some elective credits out of the way and not have to worry about them in the coming years as the difficulty of the PDAT classes ratchet up.

**All expenses paid trip to Seattle.** The team that wins the local competition will be awarded a \$2500 stipend to be divided amongst the team to cover their expenses to AMCP's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Showcase in Seattle, WA next April. The winning team will also have their written materials submitted to AMCP for consideration in participating in the national competition. While we cannot guarantee that the winning team will be invited, UIC has yet to be denied participation at the national level. A monetary award will also be given to the second place winner as well as trophies/plaques for the top three teams. You might also win the "Team Most Likely to be a Sales Rep" award that my team won last year. To this day I'm not sure if that was an insult or simply a compliment on our sharp suits and laser focused presentation. I'll assume the latter.

**Free lunch/dinner.** At the conclusion of the competition, all teams and judges are invited to the post P&T awards ceremony. This is a great time to get to know the judges on a personal level and begin to network. We will also provide a light pre-competition lunch to work out those last-minute butterflies.

**Experience and a head start on learning.** Even if you know *nothing* about managed care, this is a great opportunity to begin learning about how the managed care industry works and get a head start on your learning about a particular disease state.

## What if I don't know anyone to be on a team with?

If you have friends and know upper class men to be on a team with (or get recruited by them), you can certainly form your own group. Alternatively, we will also form groups for everyone that is unable to put together a team of four together. If you have a friend that you know you want to work with, but don't have a group of four, we can certainly make arrangements to have you on the same team.

## I still have questions!!!

If you have a pressing question, email Chris Hollman at [chollm1@uic.edu](mailto:chollm1@uic.edu). We will also be having a more in-depth overview of the P&T competition on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (tentatively) at 12:30pm at the weekly AMCP meeting, including team strategies and what teams have found successful/unsuccessful in the past. Hope to see you there!

## **Everything I Really Needed To Know, I Learned From P&T**

**By Joseph Roudis**

Last year when I was a P1, I competed in AMCP's annual Pharmacy and Therapeutics competition, otherwise known as the P & T competition. I have to admit that I really didn't know what I wanted to do with my future pharmacy career when I started, and I also had no clue about managed care. All I knew was that practically every patient I would encounter in the pharmacy would be hating their insurance, and the majority of my day would be spent worrying about whether little Jimmy would be able to afford his Omnicef while trying to avoid Mr. X, who would soon be yelling at me because his prescribed drug didn't match his formulary. To tell you the truth, my only interest in managed care was trying to find out why it was so important, and for that matter, why it was such a hassle. I joined AMCP because I wanted to compete in the P & T competition, which gave me a first hand glance into the world of managed care. As a first year student, you are not expected to know everything there is to know about managed care, but you do get to do some real research work. Your main responsibilities are usually to learn about the disease state that the selected drug is to be used for and to present this information along with your team. As you advance to your 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> years, you advance to more challenging tasks within the project. The project shows you exactly what it takes for a single drug to make it to an insurance plan's formulary. And, if your team wins, you have the chance to advance to the national stage where you compete against other AMCP chapters. It is a great way to meet new people, and above all a great way to network with those who are high up in the managed care industry.

## **Medicare College Enrichment Day**

**By Brad Seiler**

January 2006 marks huge changes with Medicare. This November 14th, Pharmacy Student Council in cooperation with the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy is very excited to present a lecture on Medicare Part D as the first College Enrichment Day. The new proposed program will greatly affect the pharmacy profession starting in 2006.

We are happy to welcome Dr. Gregory Dill as our speaker. He is a Health Insurance Specialist for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dr. Dill covers Region V, which includes Illinois and 5 other states. He has been regarded as one of the top minds concerning the upcoming changes to Medicare in our area. With his knowledge, he has been educating many professionals about Medicare Part D to not only help them implement the new program, but also to be able to answer any questions that are posed to them by patients. Dr. Dill is also an alumnus of the UIC College of Pharmacy.

This College Enrichment Day is sure to be very informative and beneficial to us as students and future pharmacists. So mark your calendars on November 14th at 12:30pm in room 134-1. Hope to see you all there!

# Hospira Internship

## Summer 2005

### By Nisha Mathew

I started working at a specialty pharmaceutical company called Hospira, located in Lake Forest, IL, which is the hospital products division of Abbott Labs. This company was a recent spinoff from Abbott, so it was interesting to watch the growth and progress of the company.

I worked in Global Regulatory Affairs, which deals with international regulations of pharmaceuticals and devices. I became familiar with many aspects of the FDA. I also became exposed to the preparation that a company does in order to approve a generic drug with the FDA. I had the opportunity to familiarize myself with New Drug Applications and Abbreviated New Drug Applications. I also learned about regulations in some countries regarding devices. All these were things that I learned as I went along.

My main task was to support Hospira's global transition activity and update their database of all the drugs and devices they had worldwide. I got exposure to international documents such as the Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product, Certificate of Foreign Government, and Letters of Authorization from different countries which are all required to legalize or register a product in a different country. I also learned about Pharmaceutical Strategy and how companies positioned themselves in the market to create a niche for themselves. I had the opportunity to help arrange a global conference with managers from different parts of the world. I was also able to set the stage for the new software system the company was implementing. My background in computer engineering proved to be very useful in this area! I would help explain the regulatory concepts to the IT company and simplify IT language to understandable terms to management. At the end of my stay in the company, I had the opportunity to give a presentation on the new software system to the Director of Regulatory Affairs. In addition to all this, I was able to meet pharmacists throughout the company (Hospira & Abbott) and spend time with them learning about the different positions they held within the company. I was also able to set up a shadowing experience in drug information and shadowed them for about 16 hours. This summer internship was a very good learning experience for me. It opened my eyes to the different opportunities that a pharmacist can pursue. I would highly recommend this internship to anyone considering a career in the pharmaceutical industry.

## Why Should You Join AMCP?

### By Tom Moran

Many people have asked me throughout the semester why they should join AMCP. After all, if you are going to go to the trouble of paying membership dues, it is important to know what you are getting in return. I realize that people join organizations for different reasons, so I will try to give just a few of the reasons why I decided to join AMCP. First, and probably foremost, is the fact that AMCP has many speakers who come to talk to us throughout the semester about a variety of topics. Last year, we had speakers representing several different drug companies as well as a few managed care organizations. All in all, listening to the speakers talk about what they do for a living and how they got to where they were was very helpful in regards to future career decisions. One of the more tangible benefits to joining AMCP is that you receive a subscription to the Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy which comes out once a month and is usually accompanied by a smaller continuing medical education supplement on a relevant pharmacy topic ranging from Type 2 Diabetes to Medicare Part D. As an AMCP member, you will also receive the monthly AMCP newsletter as well as a weekly e-mail that keeps you informed of ongoing events in the world of pharmacy. The third reason I will offer you is a chance to participate in the Pharmacy and Therapeutics competition (P&T) which is held annually every February. I participated last year as a P1, and I learned a great deal about what these committees go through in making their decisions and had a good time doing so. Incidentally, this year the competition is being offered for three hours of credit so it is a good way to get a head start on or finish up your elective hours. Lastly, we do have food at several meetings each semester, which, if you think about it, may pay for your membership dues in and of itself. If you are interested in joining AMCP or just learning more about us, please send me an e-mail ([tmoran2@uic.edu](mailto:tmoran2@uic.edu)) or check out our website at <http://www.uicamcp.org>.

# Takeda Global Research and Development Internship

Summer 2005

By Allison Beck and Faye Yang

The daughter company of the oldest pharmaceutical company in Japan (Takeda Pharmaceutical Corporation), Takeda Global Research and Development (TGRD) is a Chicago-land based pharmaceutical company located in Lincolnshire, Illinois. TGRD currently markets ACTOS®, Advicor®, Niaspan®, and ROZEREM™ and has a promising pipeline which spans the drug development timeline. Takeda's vision is to become a world class pharmaceutical company which strives to remain an ethical company that upholds the highest standards and integrity and is committed to building a company that encourages each person to develop their own unique gifts. Our summer internship at TGRD gave us the amazing experience of working at a unique pharmaceutical company and to witness first hand milestone moments in drug development.

The summer internship program consisted of 14 interns from across the country including students in business, computer science, law, biostatistics, life sciences, and pharmacy. There were four of us representing the UIC College of Pharmacy (Janet Devine, P3, Lindsay Wargel, P3, Allison Beck, P2, and Faye Yang, P2), and we all had positions in different divisions within the company. PharmD candidates had the opportunity to work in Regulatory Affairs, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Clinical Supplies, and Clinical Science.

As interns, we gained an understanding of the regulations guiding clinical drug development. We were exposed to team meetings and various issues regarding compounds in various stages in drug development. We prepared, organized, and coordinated data for submission to the FDA, and participated in activities related to clinical trial management. Additionally, we participated in teleconference meetings with the FDA and colleagues from London and Japan. We also had the chance to attend numerous training sessions, discussions, and lectures with experts in the field.

Beyond our specific responsibilities within our respective departments, the interns met weekly for Breakfast and Learn programs with vice presidents from each division of the company to discuss their functions and to be provided with insight on their background and career paths. Perhaps the most exciting experience for both Takeda employees and the interns this past summer was the very rare opportunity to celebrate in a FDA approval and launch of a new drug product for the treatment of chronic insomnia. ROZEREM™ is the first and only prescription, non-scheduled sleep medication that has shown no evidence of abuse and dependence that has been approved in the U.S. to date.

Recognizing that it was still our summer vacation, Takeda provided a nice balance between work and play. We were treated to dinners with executives, a company picnic at Great America, a boat cruise on Lake Michigan, and an afternoon Cubs game on the rooftop of the Brixen Ivy. Additionally, we participated in a community outreach program partnered with Rebuilding Together, a non-profit organization specializing in the rehabilitation of buildings and homes in lower income areas. We spent the day painting, landscaping, and rehabbing an elementary school in Waukegan.

Overall, the internship at Takeda gave us a comprehensive look into the pharmaceutical industry. It was both an educational and rewarding summer that provided us with knowledge only to be gained outside of the classroom.



Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy - UIC Student Chapter

**Check out the UIC AMCP website at  
[www.uicamcp.org](http://www.uicamcp.org)**

# Available Career Opportunities in Pharmaceutical Industry

By Kavita Singh

The career opportunities for a new pharmacist can be endless as the pharmacy field constantly expands its role in the healthcare system. Multiple opportunities exist within the pharmaceutical industry. However, many pharmacists may not be familiar with all the options available to them. Below are brief descriptions of just a few of the many roles that pharmacists have within the industry.

The Marketing department's primary role is to develop positioning for the product and execute strategic and tactical marketing plans. Members of the Marketing department help create promotional tools which are used to build product awareness and inform patients and healthcare professionals of key product attributes. Additionally, members of this department educate sales representatives on new clinical findings and inform them of the core strategic initiatives. They also organize Certified Medical Education classes and symposiums on various areas of medical interest.

The Medical Information department is responsible for providing scientifically balanced medical information on pharmaceutical products to unsolicited requests from health care professionals, patients, and internal personnel. Members within the department respond to inquiries verbally and in writing based on analysis of information gathered from the package insert, published medical literature, data on file, and post-marketing data. Additional responsibilities include medical information support at both national and international scientific meetings, creating and peer reviewing standard response letters, supporting new product launches, and providing medication and disease state training to internal personnel.

The purpose of the Quality Assurance department is to ensure that all pharmaceutical products produced are compliant with FDA regulations. The department receives pharmaceutical products that need to be packaged and distributed. Members of this department subsequently work on testing the products to ensure they meet the required specifications and to reduce variations in the final product. The staff also facilitates the evaluation of the overall product manufacturing system on a regular basis to provide certainty that the process is following the appropriate standards. Additionally, the staff handles patient complaints about products and assists with new product introductions.

The Medical Review department is responsible for reviewing all advertising, promotion, and sales training materials for medical accuracy, regulatory appropriateness, and compliance with the FDA. The department also reviews all materials distributed to health care professionals and patients. Additionally, the department communicates and negotiates with the FDA regarding the labeling and the launch of new or updated products. A major responsibility of the department is to assure that distributed materials are providing safe and reliable information to the public.

The Post-marketing Safety division is responsible for investigating and processing all adverse drug events related to pharmaceutical products from local and international reports and filing these cases with the FDA. Staff in this department are also responsible for collecting detailed information from voluntary consumer and healthcare professional reports regarding adverse drug events.

The Regulatory Affairs department works in conjunction with multiple divisions to provide regulatory guidelines for different aspects of pharmaceutical research, development, manufacturing, and marketing. Members of this department submit revisions for pharmaceutical product manufacturing and development to the FDA, and they work with foreign regulatory members to receive approval for products in each country.

The Medical Science Liaisons facilitate communication between the medical community and the pharmaceutical company. One of the primary job functions of this group is to maintain relationships with key opinion leaders and educators in the medical community. Other position responsibilities include promoting awareness of upcoming medical and scientific developments related to products within the company, gathering marketing and study ideas from the community, attending medical conferences, and disseminating medical information.

The Health Economic Outcomes Research department seeks to create value for pharmaceutical products by providing cost/benefit analyses for pharmaceutical products based on patient outcomes such as quality of life, fewer hospitalizations, and future medications. They also analyze epidemiological and clinical research, develop economic models and theories, meet with MCO's, hospitals, and foreign countries to discuss the economic and therapeutic value of the product.

This is only a taste of the extensive number of positions available in the pharmaceutical industry. As you can see the industry offers a variety of options to utilize the knowledge and skills of pharmacists.

## Re-cap on AMCP Educational Conference in Nashville, TN

Students are traditionally the focus of the annual AMCP Educational Conference, but this year was different. While the spotlight was still on students, it shined brightest on the UIC COP contingency. While other schools sent no more than three students, UIC represented with a force of 12 ready to learn, mingle, network, and party in a way that has become our tradition. That number does not include the current residents (and recent COP graduates), three faculty members, and COP alumni who make up an ever-growing network ready to support our organization and professional pursuits.

The conference began with an awards ceremony during the general assembly acknowledging the UIC COP as 2005 P&T National Champions. We received an engraved plaque which now rests permanently in the AMCP display case on the first floor of the COP.

While all sessions were open to students, there were a few student sessions where we met with other leaders from AMCP student chapters from around the country. We shared ideas on how we run our chapters and stories about our schools. We also met up with these students at the student reception, hospitality suites, clubs, and bars. Our spotlight made meeting people – THE name of the game – very easy. We are looking forward to continuing these relationships and forging new ones in November at the AMCP Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and again next April in Seattle, Washington, for the AMCP National Annual Meeting & Showcase.



UIC representing well in Nashville



Your 2005 National P&T Committee Champions: Annie Rakoczy, Rob Wittenberg, Joe Roudis, and Adam Bursua.  
Also Faculty advisors Margaret Byun and Jack Salmon



To the victors go the spoils

## Upcoming Events

AMCP holds weekly meetings every Thursday during lunch in room 134-2 (unless otherwise noted).

Meeting schedule for this semester is as follows:

October 27, 2005	Paul Miner, PharmD Novartis, Associate Director Managed Markets
November 3, 2005	Introduction to P&T Competition by Chris Hollman AMCP E-Board
November 10, 2005	Jon Strezewski, PharmD Aon, Resident
November 17, 2005	Karen Bertch, PharmD Premier Inc., Director of Rational Choice Rx
December 3, 2005	Last meeting of the year -- TBA

UIC Student Enrichment Day: Medicare Part D Monday November 14, 2005

UIC P&T Competition: Friday February 10, 2006

Conferences: 18th Annual Meeting & Showcase, April 5-8, 2006, Seattle, WA.

## A Word from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the AMCP Student News for the 2005-2006 academic year. I hope that many of you will find this newsletter interesting and informative. I also hope that it will keep you up to date on many of the happenings occurring within the AMCP student chapter. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to email me at mpatel21@uic.edu. You can also stop by our weekly meeting in Room 134-3 on Thursdays or visit our website at [www.uicamcp.org](http://www.uicamcp.org) for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the writers for their submissions. This newsletter would not have been made possible without the dedication of its student chapter.

Mona Patel

The University of Illinois Student Chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy in an effort to maintain the quality of its student programming is accepting donations. All proceeds will be used to fund field trips, speakers, the Pharmacy and Therapeutics competition, and newsletters. Donors will be recognized in the upcoming newsletter.

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