August 28, 2013

**Ansel Symposium Addresses the Role of Pharmacy in Affordable Care**

Athens, GA -- An “Introduction to Affordable Care” and “Patient Safety and Roles for Pharmacy” will be addressed at the 10th Annual Howard C. Ansel Symposium at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy on October 5, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The six-hour event will provide an overview of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and explore the opportunities and challenges the act may present to pharmacy and others in the healthcare field.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which was signed into law March 23, 2010, is the most significant attempt to overhaul and expand the U.S. healthcare system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) component of the legislation is intended to increase the ability of Americans to obtain health insurance coverage and reduce the overall costs of health care. On June 28, 2012, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of most of the ACA.

Along with pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, other healthcare professionals, clinic managers, and those in the insurance field, and city and county government, may benefit from the programming. The morning session will provide information on the impact of affordable care on small businesses, the upcoming health exchanges, government pricing programs for medication (340B) and the expanding role of pharmacy, including implications for patient and medication safety.

Patient safety, the topic of the afternoon session, is one of the nation’s most pressing health care challenges. A 1999 report by the Institute of Medicine estimates that as many as 44,000 to 98,000 people die in U.S. hospitals each year as the result of lapses in patient safety. Those numbers are surely higher today. The afternoon session will focus on patient and medication safety in community and health-system pharmacy, including medication reconciliation, through the lens of accreditation standards.

The Office of Continuing Education and Outreach will also launch the Pharmacy Technician CE Initiative at the symposium. Pharmacists who register will be able to bring one technician free of charge. Information on registration, cost and continuing education credit is available at www.rxugace.com.

The Ansel Symposium was established in 2003, as part of the College’s Centennial Celebration, to honor Dean Emeritus Howard C. Ansel for his notable contributions to pharmacy education and his ongoing support of the pharmacy profession. Ansel was dean of the College of Pharmacy from 1977 to 1991 and the College’s first Panoz Professor of Pharmacy. He joined the faculty in 1962 in the College’s former Department of Pharmaceutics after three years on the faculty of the University of Toledo, where he received his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in pharmaceutics at the University of Florida.

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