August 27, 2011

2012 Ansel Symposium deals with antimicrobial stewardship

“Antimicrobial resistance costs money, livelihood, and lives, and threatens to undermine the effectiveness of health delivery programs. It has been described as a threat to global stability and national security. Antimicrobial use is the key driver of resistance. This selective pressure comes from a combination of overuse... and also from misuse.” -WHO Global Strategy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance, 2000.

“Antimicrobial stewardship principles and best practices” is the topic of the 2012 Howard C. Ansel Symposium, to be held on October 6 at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy as a two-part six-hour continuing education program.

A comprehensive evidence-based stewardship program to combat antimicrobial resistance includes elements based on local antimicrobial use and resistance problems and on available resources that may differ, depending on the size of the institution or clinical setting.

Effective antimicrobial stewardship programs can be financially self-supporting and improve patient care. Comprehensive programs have consistently demonstrated a 22%-36% decrease in antimicrobial use, with annual savings of $200,000 – $900,000 in both larger academic hospitals and smaller community hospitals.

This two-part program is intended for pharmacists practicing in any setting where antimicrobial agents are prescribed and dispensed. Each session costs $40. Early bird registration before September 17 allows for a $10 discount per session.

The keynote address, “The Foundations of Antimicrobial Stewardship,” will be presented by J. Russell May, clinical professor in the College’s Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. Whitney Jones, a clinical specialist at Georgia Health Sciences University in Augusta, will present “Principles of Antimicrobial Stewardship,” followed by a networking lunch on “Antimicrobial Stewardship in Transitions of Care.”

The afternoon session on Best Practices of Antimicrobial Stewardship will be led by Geneen Gibson, an infectious disease specialist at St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System in Savannah, discussing “City-wide Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiative.” “Maintaining an Effective Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in an Academic Health System” will be presented by Whitney Jones; and “Maintaining an Effective Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in an Community Health System,” will be presented by Virginia Fleming, clinical assistant professor in the College’s Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy.

Case studies will be reviewed by symposium faculty, along with Trina von Waldner, the College’s director of postgraduate continuing education and outreach, and Charles McDuffie, the College’s coordinator of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

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.

For more information and registration for the Ansel Symposium, visit the website at www.rxugace.com/details/644.

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