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JPC Foundation Geriatrics Education Program: A Success

JPC Foundation Inc. co-sponsored and provided accreditation for the successful geriatrics education program "Geriatrics: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Providing Care for the Elderly" on July 16, 2006. The program provided CE credits for a variety of healthcare professionals committed to improving the quality of geriatric healthcare. JPC Foundation sponsored the event in conjunction with the Institute for Continuing Education of the 1199SEIU League Training and Upgrading Fund.

The program focused on four key topics critical to improving geriatric healthcare that were presented by top healthcare professionals. The selection of topics demonstrated the complexity of geriatric healthcare and the need for a true multidisciplinary approach to delivering proper care to the elderly. Each topic complemented each other to provide a cohesive seminar and showed how different aspects of geriatric healthcare affect one another.

The topics covered during the program included:

- **Osteoporosis and Overview of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Issues**
Dr. Judith L. Beizer, PharmD, CGP, FASCP, Clinical Professor, Assistant Chair - Department of Clinical Pharmacy Practice, College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions, St. John's University, Jamaica, NY
- **Wound Care in the Elderly**
Antonia Alafiris, PharmD, CGP, Assistant Director of Pharmacotherapy Services and Pharmacy Residency Programs, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
- **Nutritional Issues in the Elderly**
Deborah Rosenbaum RD, CDN, Director of Nutrition Services, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY

- **Psychological/Behavioral Issues in the Elderly**
David Stern, MD, S+AGE Clinic (Geriatric Assessment), Sherman Oaks, CA

Following the presentations, the speakers took part in a panel discussion and took questions from the audience. The panel discussion portion of the program lasted for an hour and received a great response from those in attendance. The panel demonstrated the complexity of geriatric healthcare and each speaker was able to expand on each topic because they all overlap in providing proper care for the elderly. The program served to teach attendees not only about healthcare issues specific to each speaker's area of expertise but also the interrelation of each healthcare issue and the importance of taking a multidisciplinary, team approach to geriatric care.

Approval ratings gathered from attendee evaluations ranked the speakers' organization, delivery, content, and audio visual as "excellent" in all categories. Attendance for the program reached 315 including a wide variety of healthcare professionals. The attendance breakdown was as follows:

Pharmacists	—	105
Nurses (18 RNs and 65 LPNS)	—	83
Dietitians	—	54
Social Workers	—	24
Certified Nursing Assistants	—	21
Physician Assistants	—	2
Others	—	26

"JPC Foundation was pleased to be able to take part in the planning, accreditation, and sponsorship of this important program for the betterment of geriatric healthcare" said Christopher Moore, President, JPC Foundation. "The response to the program

was phenomenal and demonstrates the growing need for more geriatric healthcare education. This program was just one step in our mission to provide continuing education healthcare programs for professionals in areas that need them the most."

JPC Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to providing healthcare education, training, and accreditation for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other members of the healthcare community. Headquartered in New York City, the JPC Foundation has been offering successful continuing education programs nationwide for the past 5 years.

About JPC Foundation



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About JPC



Joint Purchasing Corporation (JPC) established the JPC Foundation Inc. as a non-profit organization to provide continuing education to providers and consumers in the healthcare community. JPC Foundation Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization providing education programs, materials and resources.

JPC Foundation Website Receives HON Code Certification

JPC Foundation's website was approved by the Health on the Net (HON) Foundation as a certified provider of healthcare information on June 20, 2006. This certification underscored JPC Foundation's commitment to quality healthcare education and demonstrated the value of the Foundation's website, which functions as a growing resource for healthcare information, particularly in the field of geriatric healthcare.

To receive the HON Code certification, JPC Foundation's website had to come into compliance with eight HON principles. These principles are developed to ensure that healthcare information on the website is up-to-date and provided by qualified healthcare professionals. The HON principles include authority, complementarity, confidentiality, attribution, justifiability, transparency of authorship, transparency of sponsorship, and honesty in advertising and editorial policy.

"As we strive to provide quality resources and programs for the healthcare community, it is an honor to be recognized for our contribution to healthcare and our compliance with the HON principles," said Christopher Moore, President, JPC Foundation.

Health on the Net (HON) Foundation is a non-profit organization that works independent of the government and sets the standards for providing online healthcare information. The HON Foundation is comprised of international members and provides search options for users to find approved medical information websites.

Speakers' Showcase – Dr. David Stern, MD

After 30 years as an internist and gastroenterologist in private practice, Dr. David Stern returned to UCLA Medical Center for additional training to become a specialist in geriatric medicine. Originally a New Yorker, educated at Columbia College and then SUNY Downstate Medical Center, he relocated to southern California where he has lived since 1969. He is Board certified in internal medicine, gastroenterology, and geriatric medicine. Dr. Stern is currently the associate medical director of S+AGE, a specialized ambulatory geriatric evaluation clinic located in Sherman Oaks, California. The clinic specializes in the care of the frail elderly. He is also a Clinical Instructor at the UCLA Department of Medicine, geriatric

division and is actively involved in the teaching of geriatric fellows. Dr Stern's research and accomplishments have been published in numerous journals. He has given several presentations regarding geriatric assessment. He has served as a relevance reviewer for geriatric medicine with the American Board of Internal Medicine and as a question and critique writer for the 2006 edition of the Geriatric Review Syllabus.

The Speakers Showcase highlights those individuals who have joined our speakers' bureau and who are committed to helping JPC Foundation continue to provide quality continuing healthcare education. JPC Foundation has established a speakers' bureau of healthcare professionals who are outstanding speakers and published experts in their field and who have vast clinical experience particularly related to geriatrics as well as other healthcare topics.

Geriatrics Literature Review Polypharmacy and Geriatrics

The following is a literature review of the article "Can Polypharmacy Reduction Efforts in an Ambulatory Setting Be Successful?" by Rhonda L. Randall, DO and Stephen M. Bruno, PharmD. The article originally appeared in *Clinical Geriatrics*, volume 14 issue 7, in July 2006.

Polypharmacy, the use of one or more unnecessary medications, is becoming an area of greater concern in the field of geriatrics. The elderly population is responsible for consuming 34% of prescribed drugs and 40% of over-the-counter medications in the US. Polypharmacy results from two main factors. Many older adults take to self-medicating, causing them to take many unnecessary drugs. Additionally, a lack of coordinated care by physicians results in excessive or overlapping medication therapy.

The Study

A recent study focused on the impact of consultant pharmacist collaboration with prescribers in long-term care programs. Consultant pharmacists were brought in to collaborate with geriatrician medical directors to attend to potential drug-related problems (DRPs) within long-term care facilities. The study lasted for 18 months and included observations from three long-term care facilities. Over 900 medication records were reviewed for unnecessary drug use, duplication of therapy, compliance, dosage, therapy duration, and drug interaction. Prescriber recommendations were also tracked to see if they were followed accurately.

The Findings

Of the over 900 records examined, 1191 potential DRPs were found. Reasons for the DRPs included:

- Duration of therapy (44%)
- Duplication of therapy (24%)
- Dosing (14%)
- Drug interaction (9%)
- Nonpreferred (5%)
- Patient compliance (1%)

The consultant pharmacists believed they prevented serious DPRs in 21 of the cases that they examined.

The Results

The study demonstrated the need for increased physician-physician and physician-pharmacist communication in the provision of geriatric care. Identifying medication errors such as those listed above can protect patients and provide them with better coordinated care as well as reduce medical costs. Consultant pharmacists proved to be effective in improving healthcare for the elderly, but these pharmacists were often limited in their ability to access up-to-date patient and prescribing information. Additionally, patients often forget to disclose self-medicating practices, and without this information from the physicians, the consulting pharmacists are unaware of other existing medication errors that could occur. Improved patient-physician communication and disclosure is, then, also important. Pharmacy tracking tools are just one improvement that can help to decrease medication errors and to improve communication between healthcare professionals providing coordinated care.

For More Information

Précis, the quarterly newsletter from JPC Foundation, is designed to provide members of the healthcare community with current information about geriatric healthcare, JPC Foundation and its programs. If you are interested in planning an educational program with JPC Foundation or would like more information about the articles in this issue, please contact Jill Cienki, Director of Communications and Media for JPC Foundation, at Jcienki@jpc.org or visit our website at <http://jpcfoundation.org>. For more information about JPC, please call 212-946-2687.

