



## awards

### Tackling the Tough Issues: **Providing Care in Remote Areas**

Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) was the recipient of the ASHP Foundation's 2006 Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety, receiving a \$50,000 gift for its innovative initiative: a telepharmacy solution to improve the quality of pharmaceutical care being delivered to the remote residents of the area.

The Southcentral Foundation Telepharmacy Program sought to improve pharmaceutical services to its patient population of more than 36,000, spread out over a nearly 2,000-mile area with limited transportation options. Prior to 2003, medical services were provided by community health aides, with physicians based in Anchorage making periodic field visits and serving as consultants via telephone. Chronic medications were filled through the Southcentral Foundation's Village Pharmacy division, but acute medications were distributed by non-pharmacy personnel. There was no pharmacist oversight of the more than 18,000 prescriptions being processed per year.

ANMC's multidisciplinary team, led by Capt. (USPHS) Doug Herring, R.Ph., determined that a telepharmacy solution was best-suited for the challenges presented by distance, weather and lack of available pharmacy professionals. In its 3 years of operation, the Telepharmacy Program has



made it possible to bring all medication procurement, storage and accountability into compliance with the standards of practice; has improved access to needed medications; and has allowed ANMC to record prescribing trends, collect data that was used to further improve the medication-use safety initiative, and to reconcile patient medications across the continuum of care. The number of prescriptions per month increased from less than 1,000 to more than 1,600. Now, pharmacists are able to have greater influence over prescribing habits, encourage medication adherence and help make medications more cost effective for their patients.

Since receiving the Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety, ANMC's unique program has continued to grow. "We have used the award money to improve the technology at our hub site," says Herring. "We are also planning a pilot program to improve video communications between the hub and outlying clinics. We have installed equipment and brought seven additional sites online since the awards presentation. Some of these sites have been particularly challenging – getting a 1,000-pound piece of equipment delivered takes real planning!"

The award also brought ANMC and its telepharmacy program a lot of welcome attention. "We held many celebrations around this award," says Herring. "The award made our Tribal partners realize how unique this approach to providing pharmaceutical care really is and has made it easier for us to expand the program to other villages. We have been contacted by several other Indian Health Service sites as well as by the military and several other countries. We were also featured in several publications, including *Drug Topics* and *Pharmacy Practice News*." ANMC was also given the GlaxoSmithKline 2007 Circle of Excellence Award, which salutes excellence in patient care in the U.S. Federal Health Care System.

One thing that hasn't changed for ANMC: the harsh Alaskan climate. "We had to make multiple trips to St. George when trying to deliver the new equipment to our site there," says Herring. "We would make it as far as St. Paul, then be turned back to Anchorage because of the bad conditions. Despite these challenges, we brought up three additional sites in November 2007!"

For more details about Alaska Native Medical Center and their winning initiative, as well as the 2006 finalists, visit the ASHP Foundation's Web site at [www.ashpfoundation.org](http://www.ashpfoundation.org). To read more about the Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety, see page 10 of this report.





## awards

For more detailed information about our awards programs, including application periods, procedures and selection panels, please visit the ASHP Foundation Web site at [www.ashpfoundation.org](http://www.ashpfoundation.org).

### Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety

Funded by a grant from the Cardinal Health Foundation

The Award for Excellence in Medication-Use Safety is the only awards program to honor a pharmacist-led multidisciplinary team that makes significant institution-wide system improvements relating to medication use. It recognizes on a national level pharmacy professionals who have assumed a leadership role in the medication-use process. The awardee receives a \$50,000 award, while two finalists each receive a \$10,000 award.



#### 2006 Awardee

Alaska Native Medical Center  
Anchorage, AK

#### 2006 Finalists

McLeod Regional Medical Center  
Florence, SC  
St. Joseph's/Candler Health System  
Savannah, GA

### Literature Awards

Funded by a grant from the ASHP Foundation

The ASHP Foundation Literature Awards stimulate research and innovation and foster improvement in the quality of the professional literature. Five award categories recognize important contributions to the literature of pharmacy practice in hospitals and health systems.

#### 2006 Literature Awards Recipients

##### Award for Innovation in Pharmacy Practice

"Using a Bar-Coded Medication Administration System to Prevent Medication Errors in a Community Hospital Network"

Julie A. Sakowski, Ph.D., Thomas Leonard, R.N., M.P.A., Susan Colburn, R.N., Beverly Michaelsen, M.B.A., Timothy Schiro, Pharm.D., James Schneider, R.Ph., Pharm.D., and Jeffrey M. Newman, M.D., M.P.H.  
Sutter Health, California, and Sutter Roseville Medical Center, Roseville, CA  
*Am J Health Syst Pharm* 2005; 62:2619-2625

##### Award for Sustained Contributions to the Literature of Pharmacy Practice

John D. Grabenstein, R.Ph., M.S., Ed.M., Ph.D.  
Director, Military Vaccine Agency  
Office of the Army Surgeon General  
Falls Church, VA

##### Drug Therapy Research Award

"The Impact of ACE Inhibitors or Angiotension II Type 1 Receptor Blockers on the Development of New-Onset Type 2 Diabetes"

Craig I. Coleman, Pharm.D., C. Michael White, Pharm.D., Effie L. Kuti, Pharm.D., Michael J. Kardas, Pharm.D., and Michael Lindberg, M.D.  
University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, Storrs, CT  
Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT  
*Diabetes Care* 2005; 28:2261-2266

##### Pharmacy Practice Research Award

"Clinical and Economic Outcomes of Pharmacist-Managed Aminoglycoside or Vancomycin Therapy"  
C.A. (CAB) Bond, Pharm.D., and Cynthia L. Raehl, Pharm.D.  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center-Amarillo  
*Am J Health Syst Pharm* 2005; 62:1597-1605.

##### Student Research Award

"Pharmacist Impact on Clinical Outcomes in a Diabetes Disease Management Program via Collaborative Practice"  
Patrick J. Kiel, Pharm.D., and Amie D. McCord, Pharm.D.  
Midwestern University, Chicago, IL  
*Annals of Pharmacotherapy* 2005; 39(11):1828-32.



## awards

For more detailed information about our awards programs, including application periods, procedures and selection panels, please visit the ASHP Foundation Web site at [www.ashpfoundation.org](http://www.ashpfoundation.org).

### Pharmacy Residency Excellence Awards

Funded by a grant from Amgen, Inc.

PHARMACY RESIDENCY  
**EXCELLENCE**  
AWARDS

The Pharmacy Residency Excellence Awards Program recognizes excellence and leadership in the training and mentoring of pharmacy residents. Three awards categories – Preceptor Award, New Preceptor Award and Program Award – honor the achievements of residency programs and practitioners who have demonstrated superb abilities in the training of pharmacy residents and foster innovations in pharmacy residency training.

#### 2006 Pharmacy Residency Excellence Awards Recipients

##### 2006 Program Award

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics  
Two-Year Residency Program in Health-System Pharmacy Administration  
Madison, WI

##### 2006 Preceptor Award

Brian L. Erstad, Pharm.D.  
Professor, University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and the Arizona Health Sciences Center  
Tucson, AZ

##### 2006 New Preceptor Award

John M. Valgus, Pharm.D.  
Hematology/Oncology Senior Clinical Specialist  
University of North Carolina Hospitals and Clinics  
Chapel Hill, NC

### ASHP Student Leadership Awards

Funded in part by the Walter Jones Memorial Pharmacy Student Financial Aid Fund

The ASHP Student Leadership Awards Program recognizes 12 students annually who demonstrate exceptional interest in health-system pharmacy, outstanding leadership skills among their classmates and high academic achievement. The ASHP Foundation provides a \$2,500 award to each of the recipients.

#### 2006-2007 Student Leadership Awards Recipients

##### Class of 2007

Ali McBride, University of Arizona  
Veronica M. Moore, University of Cincinnati  
Sacha R. Pollard, University of Southern Nevada  
Majid-Theodore Tanas, Washington State University

##### Class of 2008

Stephanie M. Carcione, Purdue University  
Elizabeth A. Fang, Northeastern University  
Tae Y. Kwak, Temple University  
Jason Milton, University of Georgia

##### Class of 2009

John J. Foley, Temple University  
Elaine Y. Huang, University of Washington  
Ashley Mains, Ohio Northern University  
Suzanne L. Ray, University of Florida