

Preface Accompanying JCPP **Future Vision of Pharmacy Practice**

The Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP) **Future Vision of Pharmacy Practice** (attached) was officially adopted by the JCPP member organization executive officers following the November 2004 JCPP meeting and has subsequently been endorsed by each JCPP member organizations' board of directors. This consensus document articulates a future vision for pharmacy and how it will be practiced. Equally important, the document describes how pharmacy practice will benefit society.

The JCPP was established in 1977 and serves as a forum for discussion of important issues and priorities of the pharmacy profession. The chief elected officers and chief executive officers of national pharmacy organizations meet quarterly for a full day's discussion and also form working groups of association staff members to work jointly on priority projects.

The profession of pharmacy, in large measure because of the collaboration made possible by JCPP, has an enviable record of planning strategically to determine how individual pharmacists and those organizations that educate, employ, and support them can best use their resources to address societal needs. Beginning in 1984, and continuing at five year intervals up through the present day, leaders in pharmacy have embarked on strategic planning efforts.

The first four planning processes utilized a conference format to examine the environment in which pharmacy services were organized and delivered in all settings. While each meeting was organized differently to meet specific objectives, each conference resulted in a set of recommendations aimed at various groups within and outside the profession. Those recommendations by and large all related to the significant effort that must be undertaken to optimize the medication use process to insure the health and safety of the public; a public increasingly reliant on acute and chronic medication use for the prevention and treatment of health-related problems.

These investments of time and intellectual capital have paid tremendous dividends for society. Collectively the profession's leaders acknowledged that the focus of pharmacy must move beyond the important but narrow aspect of "right drug to the right patient" and encompass the responsibility for assuring that appropriate outcomes are achieved when medications are part of a patient's individual treatment plan. As a result of this change in the definition of the profession's societal role many other changes have occurred, including the movement to a universal doctoral level of education for entry into the profession. In addition there have been significant practice and legal changes to expand the scope of pharmacists' services to the public and other professions. The common vision of pharmacists' future practice forged in these planning processes influenced the formation of coalitions among pharmacy organizations and with other stakeholders. These coalitions have been successful at the state and national levels influencing the shape of significant legislative and regulatory changes. The most striking example of this is the inclusion of medication therapy management services as a requirement of the prescription drug benefit being introduced into the Medicare program in 2006.

As the profession's leaders began discussing how to approach planning as 2004 drew closer, they agreed to use a different process than had been used previously. Rather than convening a multi-day conference with a variety of stakeholders time was set aside at each quarterly meeting of the JCPP for the purpose of working on components of a profession-wide plan. Three groups were formed that worked between meetings to create materials to advance the planning process. These were a writing group, a stakeholders group, and an implementation planning group.

The writing group drafted the initial and subsequent iterations of the JCPP **Future Vision of Pharmacy Practice**. The stakeholders group identified and prioritized the top groups and organizations pharmacy must engage in efforts to work toward the vision of optimized medication use. While pharmacy intends to take leadership roles in improving the use of medications in health and wellness, it can not do so in isolation of the many other players in the medication use process.

The implementation planning group worked to identify specific activities of JCPP member organizations that were either on-going or forthcoming that would contribute to making the JCPP envisioned future a reality. In other words, without implementation efforts the best articulated plan contributes little. To that end a new implementation group has now been established. This staff leadership team will present recommendations to the JCPP executive officers and chief elected leaders on strategies to communicate the vision and engage in dialogue about its strategic implications with prioritized groups of stakeholders external to the pharmacy profession. They will also examine the proposed implementation activities to identify gaps as well as opportunities for collaboration between organizations with projects aimed at bringing the profession closer to its envisioned future. This work will influence the JCPP agenda for the foreseeable future.

The earliest years of the 21st century finds us at a point where students are expressing unprecedented demand for entrance into the schools and colleges of pharmacy. The maturing of the Baby Boomer population establishes the largest cohort of older adults ever to demand health care and the Medicare program and a growing number of private insurance systems have recognized the need for pharmacists to deliver medication therapy management services as a portion of these programs. It would appear that the investment in planning by JCPP over a period of 20 years has in fact paid dividends for pharmacists and society. The results of the 2004-05 planning effort will no doubt continue to yield progress for pharmacists and the communities they serve.