

Recommendations from the Strategic Planning Summit for Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists

Chris M Herndon¹, Mary Lynn McPherson², Scott Strassels³, Lee Kral⁴, Rebecca Finley⁵, David Craig⁶, Suzanne Nesbit⁷

¹*Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL, United States*, ²*University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, United States*, ³*University of Texas - Austin, Austin, TX, United States*, ⁴*University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA, United States*, ⁵*Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA, United States*, ⁶*H. Lee Moffit Cancer Center, Tampa, FL, United States*, ⁷*The Johns Hopkins Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center, Baltimore, MD, United States*

Purpose

The participation of pharmacists in the care of persons in pain or in need of palliative care has become essential as the complexity of medication regimens as well as our aging population grows. The Strategic Planning Summit for the Advancement of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacy was convened to identify opportunities to improve the education of pharmacists on this topic at all facets of their professional career (i.e. professional degree program, post-graduate training, continuing education endeavors, and credentialing).

Method

Made possible by a generous grant from the Mayday Fund, the Strategic Planning Summit Advisory Board identified key stakeholder organizations which represent either pharmacists, or pain and palliative care professionals to invite to the summit. In order to prevent reaching consensus solely within the profession, organizations representing nursing and medicine professionals were additionally invited. The Summit was structured into six working groups to review currently available statements, programs, and guidelines and to develop interprofessional, pharmacist-directed recommendations. These working groups included: Standards and Assessment, Professional Degree Program Curriculum, Post-Graduate Education, Core Certificate Continuing Education, Intra-professional Certificate Continuing Education, and Credentialing.

Results

Seventy nine individuals representing twenty-five professional organizations participated in the Strategic Planning Summit. Individual working group recommendations will be presented.

Conclusions

Pharmacists in all practice settings have an important role in the care provided to patients with pain and related symptoms. Increasing the educational opportunities available to pharmacists and pharmacy students will insure better patient care.