



ASA and ASCP Foundation Announce New Medication Adherence Resource

(Alexandria, Virginia – January 16, 2007) A website to help caregiving professionals advise and coach seniors on the proper use of medications was launched recently by two expert organizations in aging – the **American Society on Aging (ASA)** and the **American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) Foundation**.

The web-based resource, [Adult Meducation](http://www.adultmeducation.com) (www.adultmeducation.com), is the result of a nine-month joint project to produce a resource for medical and non-medical professionals in the field of aging who practice in home, community-based and institutional settings and who rarely have formal training in geriatric pharmacotherapy.

“These community professionals using their contact and influence with seniors can significantly improve medication adherence,” said Lisa M. Gables, executive director of the ASCP Foundation. “As a part of its educational mission, the ASCP Foundation continues to seek ways of expanding the role of consultant and senior care pharmacists into new health care and community-based settings, and the medication adherence resource is one example of that effort.”

“As the population continues to age and the number of older individuals prescribed medications increases, the need for information that is easy to access and understand by professionals working with older adults has also grown. This new web-based resource helps meet the increased need by community-based care providers for information to better serve older adults,” said Nancy Ceridwyn, director of special projects for ASA. ASA members represent the numerous professional disciplines engaged in the field of aging, and this project is part of ASA’s Medicines and Aging Core Curriculum.

“The value of medications is in helping older adults live longer, healthier and more productive lives which can be achieved through proper medication adherence. This web-based resource provides us a framework from which everyone can work together to help older adults maximize this value,” said Ambarish J. Ambegaonkar, Ph.D. director of Clinical Applications for Pfizer, Inc. Pfizer Inc is a pharmaceutical company committed to helping people improve their health by discovering and developing medicines.

What is the scope of medication non-adherence? “Medication nonadherence accounts for more than 10% of older adult hospital admissions, nearly one fourth of nursing home admissions, and 20% of preventable adverse drug events among older person in the ambulatory setting. It is estimated that medication nonadherence results in 125,000 deaths annually and costs the U.S. health care system \$100 billion per year,” the website states.

The joint project, funded by a grant from Pfizer, identifies the physiological changes of aging that impact medications along with factors that are associated with non-adherence to medication regimens. It also helps identify individuals who are at greatest risk for non-adherence and suggests ways of resolving non-adherence. The web-based resource also includes a print version; both are available free of charge.

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Foundation

The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Foundation is the research and education affiliate of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of older persons through appropriate, effective, and safe medication use. The ASCP Foundation provides leadership, innovation, and expertise in medicines and aging to seniors and those who care for them. The unique focus of the ASCP Foundation is the development, integration, and application of knowledge regarding medication use in the senior population and the practice of senior care pharmacy to optimize health care outcomes. Visit the ASCP Foundation’s website at www.ascpfoundation.org.

American Society on Aging (ASA) is an educational organization for professionals in the field of aging. Founded in 1954, ASA’s mission is to develop leadership, knowledge, and skills to address the challenges and opportunities of a diverse aging society. With more than 10,000 members, subscribers and stakeholders, ASA is the largest association for professionals working with older adults and their caregivers. For information, visit www.asaging.org.

###